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Maamar being taken to court.

## France tries bomber

PARIS, Dec 13. (Reuters): A 27-year-old Tunisian, standing trial for the 1985 bombing of a Paris department store, was expelled from the courtroom today after bitterly protesting at being held in solitary confinement.

"I've been in solitary for 44 months," Habib Maamar shouted at the no-jury court specially set up for terrorism cases.

Maamar, who was denounced by his girlfriend, has allegedly confessed to setting off the explosion in the Paris branch of the British retail store Marks and Spencer, in which a security guard died and 18 bystanders were wounded.

"Solitary isn't fit for animals. It's slow death. I don't have any contagious diseases to justify it," he told court president Maurice Collob shortly after the trial opened. It is due to end on Friday.

Collob repeatedly warned Maamar he would be thrown out of court. When the Tunisian refused to keep quiet, he was expelled.

After his arrest police said he had admitted the 1985 Paris bombing and two other attacks — a 1984 bombing of the Paris branch of Israel's Bank Leumi and another at Marks and Spencer in London in 1983 in which two people were injured.

He said he had been following orders from an accomplice, identified as Abu Ibrahim, leader of the May 15 Palestinian group and thought to be connected with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) renegade Abu Nidal.

France, worried about terrorist attacks after a cache of explosives was found last month, stepped up border controls and airport security today.

French customs said its officers would immediately intensify vigilance at airports and along borders "to stop the introduction of arms or substances used for terrorism."

## Baby market in Singapore

SINGAPORE, Dec 13. (Reuters): A Singapore tabloid newspaper reported today that an underground market in babies was operating on the island.

"The going rate for a baby boy is \$7,500 to \$10,500. A girl costs \$5,200," the daily newspaper said, quoting unnamed doctors, police officers, nurses and lawyers.

Singapore encourages couples to have more than two children to boost its population of 2.6 million.

The newspaper said the sellers were usually women with large families. "They offer their newborn for sale because they cannot make ends meet."

But a police spokesman had no knowledge of the racket. "We are not aware of any baby sale here. The law is very clear — it's illegal."

## Weather

TEMPERATURE will be around normal with light to moderate north-westerly to southerly wind and a chance for scattered rain.

Start of sun: Slight to moderate.  
High water: 2:00 pm  
Low water: 7:00 am, 7:00 pm  
Sunset: 5:34 pm  
Sunrise: 4:51 pm

# Rubia freed in prisoner swap

Delhi to offer a package to Kashmiris

SRINAGAR, Dec 13. (Agencies): The government today released five jailed Muslim militants and won the freedom of a senior cabinet minister's daughter held for six days in captivity.

The Kashmir Liberation Front freed Rubia Sayeed two hours after the jailed Muslims were released, ending the first crisis of the government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh, a Hindu who took office on Dec. 2.

State-run television interrupted a cricket match between India and

Pakistan, flashing a bulletin: "Rubia Sayeed freed."

Rubia, 22, daughter of Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, was kidnapped at gunpoint on Friday on her way home from work at a hospital in Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu-Kashmir state.

Militants had threatened to kill Rubia unless their jailed colleagues were freed.

After five days of sporadic bargaining, the five men were released at an undisclosed spot, as their organisation had demanded, according to senior police officials speaking on condition of anonymity.

"By the grace of the Almighty and the blessings of millions of my countrymen, Rubia has a new lease of life," a relieved Sayeed said after hearing his youngest daughter was safe. "Our ordeal of anxiety and agony has ended. Their prayers and good wishes have restored our child to us."

Only hours before his daughter was grabbed, Sayeed was named head of a cabinet committee set up to settle secessionist movements in Kashmir and in the northern state of Punjab.

"Kashmir is priority number one," he said.

"We are planning an action programme, a package to restore the confidence of the people of Kashmir," he said without giving details.

Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, has been the cause of two of India's three wars with Pakistan, which controls one-third of the region.

Rubia, a medical intern, was to be flown on a special plane to New Delhi for a reunion with her family.

Among the freed militants was Abdul Hamid Sheikh, a leader of the organisation, police officials said. Sheikh, arrested last month after being wounded in a clash with police, was taken by ambulance from a Srinagar hospital and turned over to his organisation, officials said.

The other four were identified as Noor Mohammad Kalwal, Mohammad Altaf Bhat, Sher Khan Azad and Javed Ahmed Zargar, officials said. All had been arrested on suspicion of subversive activities during the past year but no charges had been filed.

The Kashmir Liberation Front, formed in 1965, wants Jammu-Kashmir, to become either independent or part of Islamic Pakistan.

Sayeed, unshaven but smiling and wrapped in a brown shawl, condemned the abduction.

"There is no bravery in attacking a girl. It is cowardly. You don't need guns and swords to attack a girl," he said. "They have lost the sympathy of the people in the state, in India and the world."

The prime minister made a brief visit to Sayeed's home, where the family remained in seclusion throughout.

Israel "is seeking a base on one of the several Ethiopian islands in the area, but this hasn't yet been defined," he said.

Bashir, who arrived in Bahrain yesterday to a red-carpet treatment, made the claim that the base was established during a news conference in Abu Dhabi on Monday.

He reiterated charges that the Israeli aim was to "lay siege to the Arab world from the south."

Israel was becoming a direct threat to all the Arab states around the Red Sea, as well as the Gulf states whose shipping trade relies heavily on the waterway, said Bashir.

On Nov 17, the Khartoum newspaper Al Engaz Al Watani reported that as part of a deal in which Ethiopia restored relations with Israel, Ethiopia would provide military and maritime facilities.

Chinese dissident leader Wuer Kaixi is guarded by policemen upon his arrival at new Tokyo airport. Wuer, 21, a student of Harvard University, is expected to meet with Chinese students in Tokyo on Saturday to open the Federation for Democracy in China branch.



Singh (right) hugs Sayeed. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Aquino gets more powers

US sent troops from Japan

MANILA, Dec 13. (Reuters): The Philippine House of Representatives today voted President Corason Aquino emergency powers for 90 days to help her rebuild the economy and thwart further coup attempts.

The Senate, expected to approve a similar bill, postponed its vote for a day after the opposition sparked a marathon debate on a provision that would allow Aquino to take over public utilities and related businesses.

The two chambers are to present a joint bill to Aquino, who is expected to sign it into law this week.



Aquino during a light moment at the first cabinet meeting after a failed coup attempt. (Reuters wirephoto)

Returning \$56m

## Imelda offers

MANILA, Dec 13. (AP): Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos has offered to surrender \$56 million on condition the government drop its claim to a \$70-million Swiss account, a government official said today.

The offer to give back 80 per cent of the bank account was made by Imelda's counsel, Bruno de Prens, in October and relayed to Guy Fontanet, a lawyer working for the Philippine government, said David Castro, commissioner of the Presidential Commission on good government.

Castro said in a news conference that the commission did not inform President Corason Aquino about the offer because it was made verbally. The Aquino government alleges that the late president Ferdinand Marcos stole up to \$10 billion during his 20-year rule and stashed some of the money in secret Swiss accounts.

The Marcoses fled to the United States three years ago during a popular revolt that swept Imelda to the presidency.

The law would grant Aquino, who this month survived the sixth coup attempt against her, powers to seize firearms, take over public utilities, fix prices, regulate power supplies and confiscate hoarded food.

The lower house denied Aquino some of the wider authority she had requested, including the power to ban strikes and suspend labour laws and an open-ended provision that some legislators said would have given her lawmaking powers.

Aquino proposed the new law under a state of emergency she declared on Dec 6 and asked it be effective for six months.

But the 198-member lower house, controlled by Aquino's ruling coalition, limited the time to 90 days. It declared any action she took to enforce the emergency must respect civil rights.

The latest coup attempt, the most serious military challenge since Aquino came to power almost four years ago, fed on widespread dissatisfaction by businessmen and workers over the handling of the economy.

Lone opposition senator Juan Ponce Enrile, who has denied allegations by Aquino that he was involved in the failed coup, said granting her powers to take over public utilities could lead to a muzzling of the press.

About 3,000 mutineers, led by generals and colonels, almost toppled Aquino in the insurrection in which more than 100 people were killed and hundreds wounded.

Aquino's estranged Vice-President, Salvador Laurel, who now heads the political opposition, renewed his call that he and Aquino resign to make way for new elections.

The military today banned civilians from carrying guns in a bid to stop the flow of weapons to mutineers allegedly trying to regroup and mount another uprising.

US troops stationed in Japan were sent to the Philippines during the recent coup attempt there, a news report said today. (See Page 2)

## Special Report

THE Arab Times today concludes its special report on divorce and child custody in mixed marriages with a look at the other side of the coin, the majority of couples who have made their marriages work.

We also interview Barbara Mezo and her former husband Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Mergawi who are currently involved in a custody battle in Egypt.

- Page 13 -

## NEWSWATCH

### Role renounced

SOFIA, Dec 13. (Reuters): Bulgaria's ruling Communist Party said that it was renouncing its leading role in the running of the country.

"The Bulgarian Communist Party renounces its leading role in society and state," the official BTA news agency said.

BTA said a meeting of the party's policy-making central committee had decided to ask the national assembly to repeal two clauses in the constitution which empowers the communists with the "construction of an advanced socialist society."

### Saudi denial

NICOSIA, Dec 13. (Reuters): Saudi Arabia is paying on time all its financial commitments in a multi-billion sterling military contract with British Aerospace, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said.

"Contrasts between the governments of Saudi Arabia and Britain ended with Saudi Arabia paying its full commitment to these projects without the need for borrowing," SPA quoted a responsible source in the government as saying. (See Page 9)

### Political talks

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 13. (AP): Imprisoned black leader Nelson Mandela, whose release is expected within weeks, met today with President F.W. de Klerk to discuss prospects for black-white political negotiations.

The meeting, announced by the Justice Ministry, was Mandela's second with a South African president this year. He visited President P.W. Botha on July 5, also at Tuynhuis, the presidential office in Capt Town. (See Page 4)

### Piravi awarded

NEW DELHI, Dec 13. (Reuters): About a year ago, Shaji Karun directed his first film after spending nearly a decade and a half as a successful cinematographer in Malayalam cinema.

Shaji knew the film was good, because he had spent years working on it, churning in his mind the poignant tale of the long and endless wait for his son by an aging man. But nobody was surprised more than the young director himself when the film "Piravi" went on to win India's national award for the best feature film of 1988.

Actually, the awards never stopped. Till date, it has won a total of sixteen national and international awards. The latest was the top award at the Ninth Hawaii International Film Festival conducted annually by the East-West Centre in Honolulu.

### Drug legalisation

NEW YORK, Dec 13. (UPI): A federal judge has called for the legalisation of cocaine and other drugs, warning "what then is wrong?" with a substance that alters one's perception of reality.

## Free elections in Croatia

BELGRADE, Dec 13. (Reuters): The Communist Party in Croatia, Yugoslavia's second biggest republic, endorsed multi-party rule today, paving the way for free elections next April.

Tanjug news agency said the Croatian party at its Congress in Zagreb adopted a document which "expressed the readiness of the Croatian Communist Party to compete in elections with other political programmes."



## Merry time

US First Lady Barbara Bush stands in a crowd of children as she attends the annual White House Christmas party for children of the resident

diplomatic corps. Sitting on Mrs Bush's lap is her granddaughter, Marshall, aged 3-1/2. (Reuters wirephoto)

## 100 killed in Tamil clash

Tigers pound TNA camp

COLOMBO, Dec 13. (Agencies): At least 100 people were killed in clashes between rival Tamil guerrilla groups in Sri Lanka's eastern province, police and residents said today.

Twelve people were shot dead and their bodies buried when leftists rebels attacked an opposition politician's home in the central hills, military sources said.

Police at first reported 18 members of the Tamil National Army (TNA) and one member of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) died when the LTTE attacked a TNA camp in Batticaloa last night.

Residents said the death toll was now about 100. "One civilian counted 24 bodies in one spot," a resident said by telephone.

The TNA, believed to have been trained by the Indian Army, is an illegal militia that has attacked police stations in northern and eastern areas in the past two months.

It includes militant groups some of whom are running the northeast provincial government and are opposed to the LTTE, the most powerful guerrilla organisation.

A police spokesman at Batticaloa, 240 km (150 miles) from Colombo, said the Tigers surrounded the TNA camp and pounded it with mortars and small-arms fire.

Residents said the wife of a parliamentarian, opposed to the LTTE, was abducted in the same area yesterday.

About 200 TNA men surrendered and are being kept in a church by their rivals. Others fled, residents said, accusing them of ransacking and looting shops in nearby Kattankudy town.

About 4,000 people left their homes and sought refuge in schools and mosques in Kattankudy because of the violence.

In the central hills, military sources said 25 men stormed the home of local councillor K. Leelaratne, killed two of his brothers, another relative and nine bodyguards last night.

Leelaratne was not at his home in Badulla at the time. The gang put the bodies in the house and set fire to it, the sources said.

The attack was the latest by the People's Liberation Front guerrilla group which launched a bloody campaign to oust the government two years ago.

On Sunday, rebels killed about 40 people and set fire to government buses and offices in the southern, western and central areas.

On Monday they backed to death 24 men and women in an attack on a village near the southern town of Mullera.

## Bashir retracts remark on base

MANAMA, Bahrain, Dec 13. (AP): Sudanese leader Lt Gen Omar Al Bashir backed down from earlier statements saying that Israel had established a military base on Ethiopian islands in the strategic Bab Al Mandab Straits, 1,300 miles (2,050 kms) south of the Jewish state.

Addressing a press conference in Bahrain, the Sudanese leader said Israel was asking Ethiopia for a base on one of the Red Sea islands.

Israel "is seeking a base on one of the several Ethiopian islands in the area, but this hasn't yet been defined," he said.

Bashir, who arrived in Bahrain yesterday to a red-carpet treatment, made the claim that the base was established during a news conference in Abu Dhabi on Monday.

He reiterated charges that the Israeli aim was to "lay siege to the Arab world from the south."

Israel was becoming a direct threat to all the Arab states around the Red Sea, as well as the Gulf states whose shipping trade relies heavily on the waterway, said Bashir.

On Nov 17, the Khartoum newspaper Al Engaz Al Watani reported that as part of a deal in which Ethiopia restored relations with Israel, Ethiopia would provide military and maritime facilities.

Government-backed forces and rebels in Sri Lanka have executed more than 1,000 people each month since the government reimposed a state of emergency in June, Amnesty International reported.

The London-based human rights organisation said security forces and paramilitary groups attempting to quell ethnic violence in southern regions of the Indian Ocean island have killed hundreds of unarmed rebel suspects at random.

## 20 dead as police battle criminals

DHAKA, Dec 13. (Reuters): At least 20 people were killed in a three-day battle between police and suspected criminals in northern Bangladesh, police said today.

They said the violence erupted on Monday night when followers of Matiur Rahman, a retired army major and self-proclaimed spiritual leader, beat up a policeman near Kishoreganj town, about 200 km (125 miles) from Dhaka.

Police rushing to aid their colleague came under fire from Rahman's men, triggering a full-scale shootout, police said.

Twenty bodies, including two policemen, have been recovered from the battle zone and witnesses said several more were still there. More than 100 people were injured.

The fighting ended this evening after police arrested Rahman, who had bullet wounds to his head, and 17 of his men fleeing in a bus.

## Ethnic violence claims 6 in Pakistan

HYDERABAD, Pakistan, Dec 13. (AP): Rival ethnic groups roamed the streets of Hyderabad today killing four people and wounding 15 more with random gunfire, police said.

Meanwhile, the army was called out to quell the violence and late today soldiers in machine gun-mounted jeeps patrolled the streets, police said.

The shootings brought to six the number of people killed in the latest outbreak of ethnic violence. The fighting began on Monday in Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's home province of Sind.

The other two deaths occurred yesterday when

the driver of a hijacked bus was shot to death and a sniper killed the driver of a three-wheeled motorised rickshaw, police said.

Four passengers on the bus were released unharmed, police said.

Police blame the killings on Sindhi separatists and rival Mohajirs, who are Indian immigrants to Pakistan.

Police said the latest round of violence was sparked on Monday by an argument-turned-shooting spree that erupted between rival ethnic groups outside a hospital.

## ARAB TIMES

### Grand Bingo

Mrs Jasbir K. Bhatia has won the first Full House prize. She will receive KD 100. Game No. 74 continues for the Second and Third Full House prizes.



## INTERNATIONAL

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Porno videos

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 13, (AP): Attorney-General Abu Talib Osman said today he will examine allegations that pornographic tapes were stolen from the home of a high-profile politician.

His decision to investigate came after allegations made in parliament last week by opposition lawmaker Karpal Singh that the tapes were stolen from the home of D.P. Vijandran, deputy speaker of the House of Representatives and secretary-general of the Malaysian Indian Congress.

Singh also alleged that a Malaysian Indian Congress leader and some employees of Maika Holdings, the investment arm of the Congress, had acted in the tapes, which he said were confiscated after the crime was committed last year. Vijandran has denied the allegations.

## Sacred elephant

KANDY, Sri Lanka, Dec 13, (AP): Raja, an elephant held sacred by Sri Lanka's Sinhalese Buddhists when he died in 1988, was unveiled yesterday — stuffed.

Hundreds of devotees and saffron-robed monks gathered in a Buddhist temple to witness the presentation of the elephant declared a national treasure before his death at age 82.

Devotees placed flowers at the feet of the elephant whose name means "king" in the Sinhalese language. It was the first time Raja had been publicly seen since his July 1988 death, which plunged much of the country's Sinhalese Buddhist majority into mourning.

## Floods fight plan

LONDON, Dec 13, (Reuters): A plan to fight recurrent floods in Bangladesh which have claimed 3,000 lives since 1987 has been approved by major aid donors, the World Bank said yesterday.

The project is expected to take decades to complete and could end up costing several billion dollars, World Bank vice-president Atilla Karasmanoglu said.

The main thrust is to contain flooding along the Ganges, Brahmaputra, Padma and Meghna rivers, which inundated vast sections of the country and destroyed six million tonnes of grain during floods in 1987 and 1988.

## Counterfeit notes

COLOMBO, Dec 13, (Kuna): The National Intelligence Bureau (NIB) of Sri Lanka has discovered a campaign by the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), the Tamil political party that controls the north-east provincial council of the island, to introduce counterfeit Sri Lanka currency to the market, a NIB source said.

The source said the EPRLF has already printed this counterfeit currency in 500-rupee denominations to the value of \$125,000 and has introduced into the market these notes to the value of \$75,000.

## Daily banned

DHAKA, Dec 13, (AP): The government has banned a daily newspaper for its support of anti-government strikes, an official statement said today.

The ban on the Bengali-language Dainik Millat, which has a circulation of 10,000, was imposed yesterday.

## Cambodia plan

BANGKOK, Dec 13, (AP): A Soviet deputy foreign minister visiting Cambodia said a proposal to establish an interim UN authority in that country should be discussed, official Cambodian radio has reported.

Igor Rogachev "expressed firm support" for Cambodian Premier Hun Sen's statement regarding talks on ending the Cambodian war, the radio said. Hun Sen said he was willing to discuss Australia's proposal for setting up a UN interim authority.

MANILA, Dec 13, (AP): A provincial governor with links to rebel soldiers warned today there would be a new coup attempt if President Corason Aquino does not make fundamental changes in her government.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos also warned that rebels who launched a coup attempt Dec 1 were still capable of staging terrorist attacks and assassinations, although they surrendered their last stronghold Saturday.

The cabinet was told the business community is looking for signs that the government will move decisively to address the political, social and economic damage wrought by the sixth and bloodiest attempt so far to oust Aquino.

Share prices on the Manila Stock Exchange fell today for the third consecutive day since trading resumed after the coup attempt.

During the mutiny, at least 113 people were killed and more than 500 wounded in fighting that raged around military camps and the financial district, Makati.

In a telephone interview with the Associated Press, Cagayan Gov. Rodolfo Aguinaldo said the coup attempt resulted from discontent in the ranks over corruption and elitism.

"You just have to look at the people who are suffering and the people who are living in luxury," said Aguinaldo, a former lieutenant colonel and one-time mem-

## New Manila coup bid warning

Philippine opposition demands

## 'Cancel US basing rights'

MANILA, Dec 13, (UPI): Opposition leaders today demanded cancellation of US military basing rights in 1991, a policy reversal blamed on President Corason Aquino's request for US warplanes to put down the latest coup attempt.

Vice President Salvador Laurel, in announcing the turnaround, also warned against congressional moves to vest Aquino with sweeping powers — including the right to make temporary laws without legislative consent — to deal with the political and economic devastation wrought by the Dec 1-7 insurrection.

"We did not topple a dictatorship in order to replace it with another dictatorship," said Laurel, who leads the opposi-

tion Nacionalista Party despite being the government's No. 2 elected leader.

In a radio interview, Laurel said President Bush had angered many Filipinos and Nacionalista Party members by agreeing to Aquino's request to dispatch F-4 Phantom jets to fly over Manila at a critical stage of the insurrection.

"We were saddened and angered. We saw how the foreign planes blasted our countrymen," Laurel said. "Originally we were agreeable to a five- to 10-year phaseout extension of the military bases in our country after 1991."

But because of the US intervention, he said, "the Nacionalista Party met on Dec 6 and passed a resolution asking for the

dismantling of the US military bases after 1991. No more extension."

Aquino requested American air cover after rebel aircraft strafed and bombed her palace on Dec 1. Defence and military officials said the US "persuasion flights" turned the tide of battle in favour of loyalist forces.

US officials said the Phantoms did not fire a shot, but Laurel said many Filipinos believe the Phantoms bombed rebel targets.

"It will be hard for the Americans to reverse that perception," Laurel said.

The 1947 lease on six US facilities, including the giant Clark Air Base and Subic Bay naval complex, expires in 1991.

government had suspended Aguinaldo for two months, but he said he had received no such order from Manila.

Following the weekly cabinet meeting, Ramos told reporters that 1,665 rebel soldiers had been captured or had surrendered. Last week, he estimated that about 3,000 troops had taken part in the mutiny in the Manila area alone.

"Although the latest coup attempt... has been thwarted, remnants of the rebel forces still retained the capabilities for

isolated terroristic attacks such as sabotage and assassination," Ramos said.

During the cabinet meeting, Economic Planning Secretary Jesus Estanislao warned that the business community was looking for signs of decisive moves from the government to restore and maintain order.

In other developments, Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos warned that rebels who launched the failed coup attempt Dec 1 were still capable of staging

terror attacks and assassinations, although they surrendered their last stronghold Saturday.

Ramos told a news conference the government no longer will seek US air cover over Philippine territory.

US jets flew "persuasion flights" to discourage bombing runs by rebel aircraft that attacked the Malacanang presidential palace and the military headquarters, helping turn the tide in favour of the government on the first day of the mutiny.

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## Drug cartel hitmen kill 3

BOGOTA, Dec 13, (AP): A judge, a prosecutor and a bank official have been killed by suspected drug cartel hitmen, police said, as traffickers stepped up their pressure for a national referendum on extraditing smugglers to the United States.

The three slain late last night were the latest victims in Colombia's 3-month-old war between drug smugglers and the government, police said.

The traffickers have said they would not relent in their campaign of bombings and assassinations unless the issue of extraditing drug trafficking suspects to the United States was put to a national vote.

The government reply is that it will not let up in its crackdown of traffickers despite their threats.

Gabriel Jaime Velez, 38, a prosecutor who handled cases against suspected drug traffickers, was one of the three latest victims in the drug war, police said.

He was killed in the town of Envidado, 10 kms (6 miles) from Medellin, the home base of the country's most powerful cocaine smuggling cartel, police said.

Edgar Henao, 55, an engineer for the inter-American development bank, was killed in Venecia, 60 kms (37 miles) southeast of Medellin, police said.

Police said both officials were killed by suspected "sicarios," the Spanish word for hitmen hired by drug traffickers.

Judge Sofia de Roldan also was killed by suspected drug cartel hitmen in the port of Buenaventura on Colombia's Pacific coast, 800 kms (500 miles) south of Medellin, police said.

The authorities could not immediately provide any details on how the three officials were killed.

Earlier this month, a proposed referendum on extradition, which asks if Colombians accused of crimes in other countries should be extradited, was attached to legislation that would reform the constitution.

The House of Representatives recently approved the legislation with the extradition rider by a vote of 109-4, bringing on accusations from the press that the congressmen had been bribed and bullied by drug traffickers.

The legislation was in a Senate Committee yesterday which was reluctant to introduce it to the full senate. If the legislation is not approved by the Senate by Dec 15, when the congress adjourns, the bill would die.

The 20 committee members were not discussing the bill, and no one wanted to suggest it be voted on, the country's two leading dailies, El Tiempo and El Espectador, reported.

## Drug pair jailed

### US hails Mexico verdict

MEXICO CITY, Dec 13, (AP): US officials are hailing the stiff sentence dealt to a pair of Mexican drug lords convicted of masterminding the torture-slayings of a US narcotics agent and his pilot.

"My heartfelt congratulations go to the government of Mexico and its judicial authorities for their decisive and correct actions," said John Lawn, head of the US Drug Enforcement Administration in Washington.

Rafael Caro Quintero 37, and Ernesto Rafael Fonseca Carrillo, 56, were convicted yesterday of masterminding the 1985 murders of DEA agent Enrique Camarena and his Mexican pilot. They were sentenced to 40 years in prison.

"There is no chance of those sentences being reduced," Attorney-General Enrique Castillo de Alvarez said.

Fernando Arias, a spokesman for Alvarez, said Caro Quintero and Fonseca would have to serve a total of 74 and 53 years respectively because of other drug-related convictions. There is no parole in drug-related cases.

Lawn said the stiff sentences are "unanimous to life imprisonment" and would send a warning to other drug kingpins.

He said it shows that "no matter how wealthy and powerful their infamous trade had made these narco-murderers, they are not beyond the reach of justice."

The Camarena case severely strained relations between Mexico and the United States in its early stages because Mexican authorities allowed Caro Quintero to escape to Costa Rica.



A man is restrained by friends as he broke down uncontrollably in front of his brother's coffin. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Rebels reject peace appeal

SAN SALVADOR, Dec 13, (Reuters): Leftist guerrillas vowed to keep up their month-old offensive against the Salvadoran government despite a call by Central American presidents to stop the fighting.

"The military offensive of the FMLN (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front) against the enemy continues," rebel commander Lucio Rivera said in an interview on radio Veneceros.

"The FMLN will maintain a permanent siege at the gates of the capital and its outskirts," he said.

The rebel-owned radio described Rivera as a field commander speaking from his position on the outskirts of San Salvador, which the rebels have repeatedly attacked since they launched a huge offensive on Nov 11.

The rebels' pledge defied a call by the five Central American presidents yesterday to stop fighting and to halt attacks on civilians.

The presidents, meeting in Costa Rica, backed government efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict and asked the United Nations and Organisation of American States to begin steps immediately to disband the guerrillas.

The FMLN general command earlier condemned the presidential statement but left open the possibility of talks with the right-wing government.

Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani said he was pleased with the accord, which he said removed all justification for the guerrillas' armed struggle.

"They have been condemned not only as an irregular force but as a terrorist group," he told a news conference after arriving back in San Salvador.

The rebels said the presidents' declaration did not contribute to a negotiated solution to the war but set the stage for greater repression by the government.

"We indignantly reject the presidents' declaration because ... it gives unconditional support to the main violator of human rights in the region — a government which has murdered and persecuted churchmen and bombarded civilians," the FMLN said in a statement.

However, the rebel general command said it accepted the presidents' proposal for mediation by United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar "to start serious negotiations, with participation by all political and social forces in the country."

In Washington, the Bush administration expressed reservations about the plan drawn up by the presidents of Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador.

"We would be concerned if repatriation and demobilisation was not accompanied by democracy, changes in Nicaragua, and some political freedom to integrate back into the process," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said.

The Contras, camped in Honduras, vowed not to disband before February elections in Nicaragua and rejected the summit proposal that rebel aid be channelled toward their demobilisation.

President Bush, under pressure from church leaders, made a holiday vow yesterday to "do everything we can to bring to justice" the killers of six Jesuit priests in violence-torn El Salvador.

As Chile prepared to elect a successor to Gen. Augusto Pinochet, who seized power in a bloody 1973 coup, tens of thousands of soldiers and police fanned out across the string bean-

# Give SA 6 months to abolish apartheid

### Kaunda, Mugabe deliver keynote speeches at UN

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 13, (AP): President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia said yesterday that the world community should give Pretoria just six months to abolish apartheid before clamping full economic sanctions on South Africa.

Kaunda told reporters that when he met recently with South African President F.W. de Klerk, "he said he was against apartheid, he said he was going to work to remove it."

"Whether he will succeed, I do not know," Kaunda said. "We want to see if he is going to push his Parliament to abolish apartheid. If he

does not, then the Security Council should invoke mandatory sanctions."

The United States and Britain have used their veto power on the Security Council to prevent the imposition of mandatory sanctions on South Africa, save for its 1977 ban on arms trade with that country. London and Washington contend that South Africa's black majority, not its white minority, would suffer the most under economic sanctions, and that further international isolation of Pretoria would be detrimental.

Kaunda and President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe gave the keynote speeches yesterday to open the General Assembly's first special session on apartheid. More than 100 speakers were expected to present their views before the session ends tomorrow.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar told the session that the assembly's longstanding opposition to apartheid "is squarely based on the universal shared perception that the institution of apartheid constitutes a threat to international peace and security."

Throughout the debate, South Africa's seats in the assembly were vacant.

Referring to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's restructuring programme, Zambian President said South Africa needed "its own perestroika" before the winds of change begin to blow in its direction.

He was followed by President Robert Mugabe of neighbouring Zimbabwe who told the assembly the world was witnessing extraordinary developments that "only the wildest of dreamers amongst us could have dared to predict."

"But as the Berlin walls of this world come tumbling down, high voltage electric fences are going up on South Africa's borders to protect apartheid."

Assembly president Joseph Garba, introducing the session, said that South Africa could in no way be an exception to the "new reality" of peaceful negotiations.

In a conciliatory gesture, he called on the assembly to offer a hand to South Africa in an effort to help it achieve a "united, non-racial and democratic" country.

South African police reported another death today near the port city of Durban, and a monitoring group said 69 blacks have been killed in factional fighting in the area this month.

In the latest killing, police said they found the body of a black man who had been fatally stabbed in the township of Inanda.

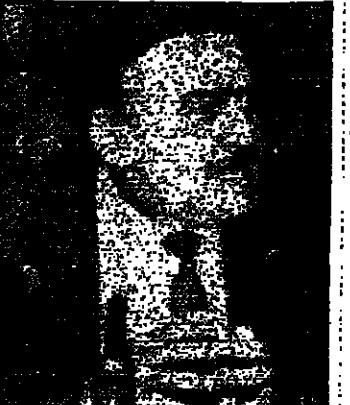
The anti-apartheid Democratic Party said 13 of the 69 killings since Dec 1 have been in Inanda and 37 in nearby Ntuzuma. Several dozen other blacks have been killed elsewhere in Natal province this month in an escalation of a political power struggle that has claimed about 2,500 lives in three years.

A South African policeman died when he was thrown from a moving train in an upsurge of violence over a five-week-old pay strike by transport workers, police said.

In a daily report on political unrest, Pretoria police said a group of people flung a special constable from a train in the Johannesburg suburb of Kathlehong yesterday.

Police fired on striking black transport workers, injuring 50, and the state transport company fired more than 1,000 strikers, witnesses and officials said.

Police used rubber bullets, buckshot and birdshot on about 500 strikers in Cape Town as they marched on the main railway building, witnesses and hospital officials said.



Plk Botha

### America

**Nasa delays space launch:** Nasa said today it has postponed for at least two days the Christmas launch of space shuttle Columbia on a satellite rescue mission because preparations are behind schedule.

"They're still assessing a new date, but it appears the 20th (of December) is now the earliest," said Karl Kristofferson, a spokesman for the US space agency.

He said a lot of minor difficulties had put launch crews behind schedule. Nasa was expected to select a launch date by tomorrow. (AP)

**Lunar lunacy:** Maybe it's sheer lunacy, but thousands of people are calling a special telephone number to find out the temperature on the moon.

American Express started its 1-900-weather line Aug 1, providing temperatures and forecasts for 600 places around the world, and one place out of this world.

It turns out more people have called for the moon's temperatures than any other location, except New York City, the company reported Tuesday. (AP)

**Cabbie returns lost purse:** A woman who left a purse containing \$6,300 in the back seat of a taxi will get the money back thanks to an honest cab driver, police said.

Wee Gan, 49, found the purse in his taxi Tuesday and brought it to a police station, said officer Fred Weiner, a police spokesman.

Police contacted the owner from papers found in the purse, Weiner said. Her name was not released. (AP)

**Jail for environmental crimes:** Two congressmen introduced legislation on Tuesday that would jail those responsible for environmental disasters that cause death, injury or severe damage.

Schumer said punishment could be set at 15 years in jail and a \$250,000 fine for a first offense to 30 years in jail and a \$2-million fine for subsequent offenses. (AP)

**Official attempts suicide:** Eugene S. Secretary of State Gentry Cogwell, whose office is at the centre of a charity bingo scandal, shot himself in the mouth on Tuesday in a suicide attempt, authorities said.

Crowell, 57, was in stable condition at Vadenbergh University Medical Centre in Nashville, where he was taken for surgery to remove a bullet in his brain, authorities said.

Capt. Mike Johnson of the Wilson County emergency medical service said Crowell was found on his front porch by his son, a 38-caliber pistol nearby. (AP)

**American released from jail:** An American was convicted of trying to smuggle more than \$7,000 rubles (\$92,000) worth of gold, jewels and currency out of the Soviet Union but received a suspended sentence Tass reported.

The official Soviet news Agency said Martin Mendelson, 24, was caught at Leningrad airport Sept 25 trying to fly to Finland without declaring money, "items of gold and silver and jewels worth a great sum."

The Washington resident, who had been held in a Soviet jail since his arrest, was released after a Leningrad court gave him a three-year suspended sentence and ordered some of the valuables confiscated, Tass said. (AP)

**Exxon skipper's plea dismissed:** A judge refused on Tuesday to dismiss criminal charges against the skipper of the Exxon Valdez, rejecting arguments that Joseph Hazelwood gained immunity from prosecution by reporting the spill.

Superior court Judge Karl Johnstone said the nation's worst oil spill would have been discovered within minutes even if Hazelwood had not radioed in after the tanker hit a reef and began spilling nearly 11 million gallons of crude.

The judge thus ruled that all evidence gathered in the investigation, except for Hazelwood's actual report, will be admissible at his trial Jan 22. (AP)

**Gorbys awarded fashion prize:** The Paris Fashion Designers Association awarded Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev a gold pen, a mug and a champagne glass and an island vacation for two for his "elegant style of living and working," a spokesman said on Tuesday.

Vladimir Fedorovskiy, an advisor at the Soviet embassy in Paris, accepted the prize on Gorbachev's behalf Monday night. (AP)

**Record price for Chinese art:** A Tokyo art dealer paid \$3.74 million (\$5.98 million) Tuesday for an 8th century porcelain horse, a new world record price for Chinese art, Sotheby's auctioneers said.

The price for the Tang dynasty horse, stolen and chipped by thieves last month, was three times Sotheby's estimate and twice the previous record for a Chinese artwork, a spokesman for the auction house said. (AP)

**Chileans prepare for first polls in 19 years:** public opinion polls favour Aylwin

SANTIAGO, Dec 13, (AP): Opposition candidate Patricio Aylwin is favoured in public opinion polls to win tomorrow's presidential elections, Chile's first in 19 years. Aides predict he'll finish with enough votes to avoid a runoff.

In addition to the presidency, an estimated 7.5 million Chileans will vote for 158 members of the two-chamber Congress in the national elections.

As Chile prepared to elect a successor to Gen. Augusto Pinochet, who seized power in a bloody 1973 coup, tens of thousands of soldiers and police fanned out across the string bean-

shaped country to guard polling stations. Campaigning officially ended at midnight Monday, and Aylwin's campaign was confident.

Polls continued to show him with a healthy lead over Hernan Buchi, the pro-government candidate, and wealthy entrepreneur Francisco Javier Errazuriz.

Janine Ravinet, a close Aylwin aide and spokeswoman for the opposition leader, said "our victory is ensured" and predicted Aylwin would receive more than the 50 per cent majority required to avoid a runoff election. He even went so far as to invite supporters to a celebra-

tion rally in Santiago on Friday afternoon. But Ravinet, apparently concerned about possible violence, also urged Aylwin supporters not to take to the streets on the night of the election, even if victory is confirmed.

"That night, we should celebrate happily and calmly at our homes," he told a news conference.

Hours before the campaign ended Monday night, tens of thousands of people filled several blocks of a wide Santiago avenue during the final rally for Buchi.

The rally ended with a series of running

skirmishes between police and both supporters and opponents of Buchi.

Police used water cannon to scatter the demonstrators and said 34 demonstrators were injured, one of them seriously. Sixty-four arrests were reported.

A surprising surge of support for socialist candidate Luis Inacio Lula da Silva has made the former lathe operator a strong contender to become Brazil's next president in Sunday's election.

## Antarctic trekking team

### Rest at South Pole

ST PAUL, Minnesota, Dec 13, (AP): A six-man international ski and sled dog team trying to make the first unmechanized crossing of Antarctica settled yesterday at the South Pole, the halfway point in their gruelling journey.

The expedition, headed by the US Scott-Amundsen scientific research base Monday afternoon, said Jack Reinie, chief spokesman for the National Science Foundation in Washington. The foundation, an independent federal agency, runs the research base as part of the US Antarctica programme, he said.

Team members planned to remain at the pole, camping in tents outside the base station until Friday, said Jennifer Kimbell Gasperini, spokeswoman for the group at its St. Paul headquarters.

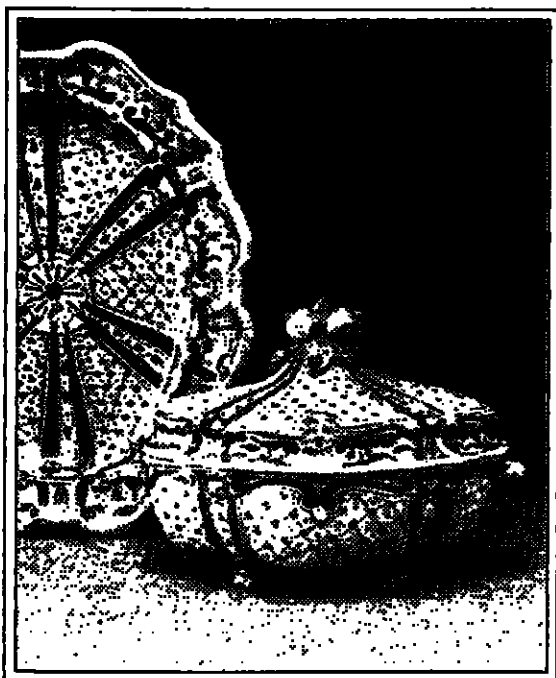
"Their time is well consumed by personal management, taking care of their gear, sewing clothing, drying clothing, working on their sleds and probably running the dogs a little bit each day to keep them in condition," she said.

After arriving at the South Pole, the group sent a misspelled satellite message that read, "here we are. Horrah."

The expedition, led by Will Steger of the United States and Jean-Louis Etienne of France, is the first to reach the bottom of the world by dog sled since Roald Amundsen first did so on Dec 14, 1911. Steger, 45, made history three years ago when he led a similar assault on the North Pole.

Other members of the team are from France, China, Japan and Great Britain.

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## Criticism over opening the door for renewed ties US may lift ban on China

WASHINGTON, Dec 13, (AP) The United States, in a possible concession to Beijing, said yesterday it may lift a ban on "normal commercial exports" including three communications satellites that would be launched by China.

"No decision has been made... but it is possible," presidential press secretary Martin Fitzwater told reporters.

The Bush administration is specifically looking at three Hughes Aircraft communication satellites, one due for launch by China in April and the others in 1991 and 1992, that were held up by a ban on export of weapons and satellites to China last June.

Two of the satellites are being built for Australia, and an Australian official said yesterday "we basically get a positive sense" from talks with the State Department on the possibility of quick approval.

Roger Uren, political counselor at the Australian embassy, said, "we've made it clear this is impor-

tant to us. We have a sense the Americans understand."

The government "suspended the export of all items on our munitions list, which includes satellites and other items that are not weapons," Fitzwater said, after the Chinese crackdown on reform activists last spring.

"We recognise that some items captured in the suspension here have civilian applications and fall under the category of normal commercial exports," he said.

He said the US government "is reviewing these exports but has not reached any decision on granting waivers so that they may proceed."

Bush has encountered criticism for opening the door for renewed relations with China in the face of that nation's continued actions against political dissent and in light of its record on human rights.

Rep. Sam Gejdenson, chairman of house foreign

policy subcommittee on international economic policy and trade, said after Fitzwater's comments, "I suppose it shouldn't surprise me, after watching the administration fly to China without any change."

"The Bush administration seems to see no limit on what they ought to try to do to help the Chinese government," Gejdenson said. "It makes no sense whatsoever."

In addition, house Democrats announced plans for a quick vote to try to override President George Bush's veto of a bill aiding Chinese students in this country.

The vetoed bill, sponsored by Rep. Nancy Pelosi, would permit Chinese students to remain in the United States indefinitely if they fear retaliation at home. Bush says he is accomplishing the same thing by executive order.



## Refugees protest forced return

HONG KONG, Dec 13, (Agencies) More than 6,000 Vietnamese demonstrated in three detention centres today to protest the return of 51 other boat people to their homeland against their will, a government spokesman said.

Meanwhile, a top government official of this British colony said the forced repatriation programme will continue despite international criticism.

"It is our intention to put into place a continuing programme to return to Vietnam all those who are judged not to be refugees," Chief Secretary Sir David Ford told the legislative council. His speech did not include a timetable for further repatriation.

The approximately 44,000 Vietnamese who have sailed into Hong Kong since June 1988 are considered illegal immigrants searching for better jobs unless they can prove they fled their communist homeland out of fear of persecution.

Nearly 6,800 have been denied refugee status after being screened by immigration officials. Slightly more than 700 have qualified as refugees.

The first batch to be sent home against their will were taken screaming and crying from their detention centre by riot police before dawn yesterday and put on a plane to Hanoi. Vietnam has promised the returnees will be treated humanely and not punished, the Hong Kong government says.

Commenting on the repatriation today, Vietnam partly blamed economic embargoes imposed by non-communist nations for causing its citizens to flee.

The official Vietnam News Agency, in a commentary carried by the Voice of Vietnam radio and monitored in Bangkok, refused to call it forced repatriation.

"Vietnam cannot ignore its compatriots who nurtured the illusion of looking for a paradise in other countries and have been detained in camps for years," the commentary said.

It said, "the policies of hostility and economic sanctions... by some countries against Vietnam over the past 10 years are one of the reasons causing economic difficulties in Vietnam. This led to the fact that some people fled the country."

The demonstrations today were "peaceful and orderly" as Vietnamese marched around their camps, chanting slogans and waving banners protesting involuntary repatriation, said government spokesman Lionel Rodrigues.

Local radio quoted some protesters as saying they would rather die in Hong Kong than be forced back home.

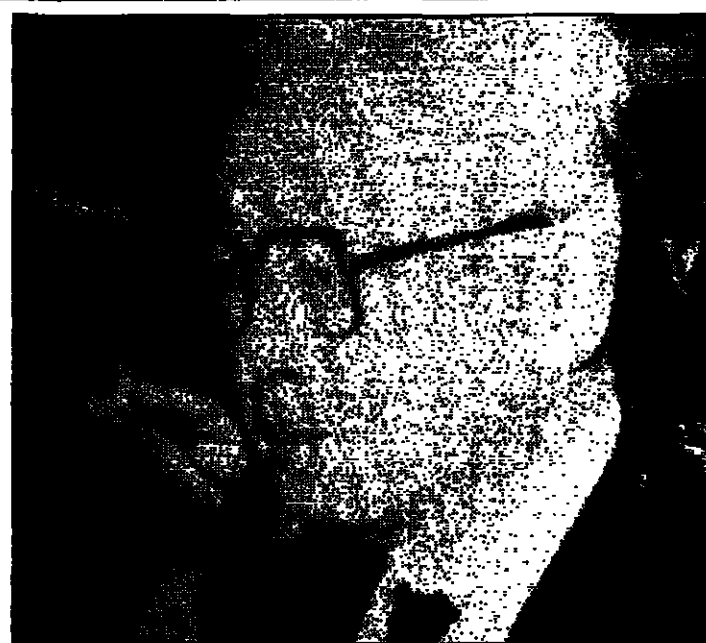
Britain refused today to rule out the repatriation of more Vietnamese boat people from Hong Kong refugee camps before Christmas despite accusations that its deportation policy was inhumane.

The Foreign Office refused to confirm or deny a statement in the colony by an unidentified senior British official who said at least one more batch of illegal immigrants would be sent back to Vietnam by Christmas.

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Shinto: trial

## Bribery charges denied

## Recruit trial

TOKYO, Dec 13, (AP) The former chairman of Japan's largest company denied business practice in a profitable stock deal with a company accused of trying to buy political favours.

The trial of Hisashi Shinto, 79, former chairman of telecommunications giant Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT), opened in Tokyo district court, the fourth of five trials in the Recruit Co. bribery scandal.

The defendants in the last trial, to begin on Friday, are Hiromasa Ezoe, the founder and former chairman of the Recruit Co. information conglomerate, and two politicians accused of accepting bribes from Recruit.

In all, 12 defendants face bribery charges for accepting contributions or bargain stock prices from Recruit and could be sentenced to five years in prison if convicted.

Ezoe's company allegedly tried to win favours and influence throughout the top ranks of politics, business and the bureaucracy. The Recruit trials are delving deep into Japanese customs of gift-giving, business practices and the close ties between government and business that have helped the country prosper.

The white-haired Shinto, taking the stand before judge Ken Toyoda in the no-jury trial, accepted the prosecution's factual allegations that he made about 21 million yen (\$145,000) in 1986 by buying advance shares in a Recruit subsidiary and then selling the shares after they were offered to the public.

"I accepted the offer of shares but I never regarded it as a bribe," Shinto said.

He noted that during his business career other companies had asked him to buy shares before they were listed publicly as a sign of trust and long-term ties.

## France will not intervene

### Comoros' crisis

PARIS, Dec 13, (Reuters) President Francois Mitterrand today ruled out French military action to oust European mercenaries from the Comoros islands, government spokesman Louis Le Penec said.

"The President has excluded any idea of military intervention," Le Penec told reporters after the weekly cabinet meeting.

But Mitterrand made clear France would protect its nationals in the Indian Ocean archipelago where up to 30 mercenaries led by French veteran Bob Denard have ruled the roost since the killing of President Ahmed Abdallah on Nov 26.

"We have no particular responsibility in (the Comoros) but we are answerable for the security of our citizens," Le Penec, minister for overseas territories, quoted Mitterrand as saying.

France and South Africa are still negotiating with Denard in the capital Moroni about terms for the mercenaries' departure.

To pile on the pressure, France has assembled an impressive naval task force in the area. Four ships sailed from the French island of Mayotte before dawn today with 100 troops on board.

Several hundred more paratroopers and naval commandos, four Transall transport

planes and five Puma helicopters stayed in reserve on Mayotte, one of the islands in the Comoro archipelago.

There are 1,600 French passport holders living in its former colony although many are dual nationals, the Foreign Ministry says.

Mitterrand's comments were clearly aimed at quashing suggestions, fuelled by statements by some senior officials, that France would forcibly evict the mercenaries.

Denard and his men have run the presidential guard in the Comoros since helping Abdallah return to power in a 1978 coup.

In a radio interview earlier today Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement said the navy ships were awaiting orders.

But he added: "It is normal that a country whose citizens are threatened should intervene to evacuate them."

French Foreign Ministry sources said today the force was "prepared for any eventuality."

French military spokesman Philippe Charrier said the task force might intervene "if the legal government of the Comoros asks us to do something in the way of military operations."

"Quite frankly there is no possibility of breaking international law or making any kind of provocation," he added.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**S. African spy held:** A former army commando who says he was assigned to spy on anti-apartheid activists in the Netherlands has been arrested for desertion, military headquarters said on Tuesday.

The arrest came five days after an anti-apartheid newspaper, Free Weekly, published an interview in which the former soldier, Robert Carelse, made detailed claims about his activities in the Netherlands.

Carelse said he was instructed by the military intelligence branch to live in Amsterdam and infiltrate militant anti-apartheid groups, including the African National Congress guerrilla movement and the committees of South African war registers. The Netherlands has very active anti-apartheid groups, including the main office of the war registers. (AP)

**Portuguese sentenced for spying:** An Angolan court yesterday sentenced a Portuguese man to 23 years in prison for allegedly spying on the Marxist government for Unita rebels, the state news agency Angop reported.

In a dispatch monitored in Lisbon, Angop said Antonio Farinha admitted to the Launda People's Revolutionary Court he passed military and economic secrets to the rebels of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola.

Farinha told the three-man panel of judges he received assistance from the secret services of the United States and South Africa, Angop reported.

The Portuguese news agency Lusa said Farinha allegedly passed on details of Cuban troop positions, Angola's battle fleet and Launda's port complex to Unita intelligence officers in Lisbon. (AP)

**Koreans to visit hometowns:** Red Cross officials said today 23 Koreans living on the Soviet island of Sakhalin will visit their hometowns in South Korea this week for the first time in more than 44 years.

It will be the first group of Koreans on Sakhalin to visit South Korea under a programme initiated in July by South Korean and Japanese Red Cross officials. The Soviet Union previously had permitted some visits, but only after 1986.

Most of the 23, ranging in age from 57 to 83, had been sent by Japan to labour camps on Sakhalin during World War II. The Far Eastern island then was under Japanese control, and Japan ruled Korea as a colony from 1910 to 1945.

They were to arrive in South Korea on Friday via Japan, along with two Soviet officials, and stay for two weeks.

South Korea had been urging the Soviet Union to establish official channels to help some 40,000 Koreans on Sakhalin visit their relatives. (AP)

**104 parties registered:** Burma has registered 104 political parties for what are promised to be the nation's first free elections in more than 30 years, Rangoon radio reported.

"One hundred-four political parties as of December 11 have declared that they will be competing" in the elections scheduled for May 27, said Tuesday's broadcast, a text of which was received in Bangkok today.

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## INTERNATIONAL



Support for Havel

Czechs carrying posters of opposition leader Vaclav Havel line the road in front of the Parliament building urging passing motorists to support him for president. Thousands of Czechs took part in the rally as Parliament was in session. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Prague to allow political dissent

PRAGUE, Dec 13, (AP): Parliament met for a second day today to decide how to pick a new president and to consider changes demanded by the pro-democracy reform movement.

Deputy Premier Jan Carnogursky told Parliament that the government was drafting new laws guaranteeing free assembly and association and freedom of religion, abolishing laws aimed at crushing political dissent which were among the demands of pro-reform demonstrators.

The reforms to the penal code, he said, would strengthen the independence of the judiciary and reduce the time a person can be held in custody before charges are filed.

State television, which carried the session live for four hours beginning at 8:30 am (0730 GMT), reported that the deputies would likely resume debate later in the day on whether to select a president or call for a referendum.

The opposition wants its leader, playwright Vaclav Havel, elected by Parliament by Dec 23 as required under the constitution. But the majority communists are pushing for an amendment that would permit a referendum and appear ready to support direct elections.

The debate comes as Czechoslovakia adjusts to its first non-communist-dominated government in more than four decades, named on Sunday.

Vasil Mohorita of the party politburo suggested, after constitutional lawyers from all parties and the opposition discussed the problem, that anything from a parliamentary election to a national, multi-candidate election in 45 to 60 days was being considered.

Mohorita conceded that Havel "represents something and in no way can we underestimate his position in society."

Mohorita, the senior communist who negotiated with the opposition over the coalition government, said the opposition agreed that the constitutional limit of 14 days for the Parliament to elect a president is too short.

"What we are trying to find is the least complicated agreement," he said. All solutions posed problems, he added, noting the communists were aware that "if Havel was not elected by Parliament, that would also create tensions. That's why we're in negotiations."

But Havel, who was being denounced as an isolated, anti-socialist dissident only a month ago, is apparently difficult for many communists to accept as president.

Meanwhile, Alexander Dubcek, the communist who led the crushed "Prague spring" reform movement of 1968, also has expressed interest in the presidency.

Under the constitution, Parliament has until Dec 23 to choose a successor to Gustav Husak, the hardline communist who resigned Sunday after swearing in a coalition government designed to overturn his policies and arrange for free elections next year.

Deputy Anton Blazej, speaking on behalf of the communist deputies who dominate the 350-member Parliament, proposed amending the constitution to allow for a referendum on the president within a month. Blazej failed, however, to get approval for passing the necessary amendments by acclamation.

## Sofia expels Zhivkov &amp; Co

SOFIA, Dec 13, (AP): The Central Committee today ousted former Bulgarian leader Todor Zhivkov from the ruling Communist Party, along with his son and a close associate, the state news agency BTA reported.

The news agency gave no other details on the expulsion of Zhivkov, who was toppled as party leader on Nov 10 and ejected from the ruling Politburo shortly afterward in a surge of reform from within the ranks.

Also purged today were Vladimir Zhivkov and Milko Balev, a former interior minister and a longstanding associate of Zhivkov, said BTA in a one-line dispatch.

Since his fall from power, the 78-year-old Zhivkov, who led the communist nation for more than 35 years, has come under growing attack in the state media for alleged corruption and mismanagement.

His son Vladimir also was stripped of his post at the Central Committee's culture department, less than two weeks after his father was removed from his positions as party chief and state president.

The Central Committee and Politburo have been purged repeatedly since Petar Mladenov succeeded Zhivkov as party



An elderly Bulgarian woman protects her face from severe cold while holding a candle light vigil in Sofia. (Reuters wirephoto)

leader and embarked on reform goals similar to those of other Soviet bloc countries.

In a related development, the president of the official trade unions, seen as a holdover from Zhivkov's rule, resigned today from the Politburo amid repeated calls to make room for reformers.

The resignation of Peter Dylugov, who held a non-voting post of the Politburo, came on the third day of a key session of the Communist Party Central Committee.

The committee yesterday debated how far the party should go in embracing reforms like those sweeping much of the east bloc. The session has been punctuated by repeated demands for those associated with long-time leader Zhivkov to resign.

In an effort to appease Bulgaria's growing pro-democracy movement, new party chief Mladenov has largely revamped the Politburo by bringing in new people more likely to embrace reform.

Dylugov reportedly said he was resigning as president of the trade unions because they had recently declared their independence from party domination. It was not clear whether he remained on the policy-making Central Committee.

Thousands of Bulgarians held a candlelight vigil outside party headquarters last evening to emphasize their call for political change.

Several speakers denounced Zhivkov, accusing the old leadership of economic and political blunders.

Politburo member Alexander Likov repeated earlier calls for the punishment of Zhivkov and his closest associates, and questioned how the system could allow "dictators" to rule so long. Zhivkov had been in power since 1954.

Mladenov proposed Monday that the party relinquish its constitutional monopoly on power and open dialogue with independent groups. He also proposed that free elections be announced by May 1990.

## Bush signs anti-terrorism bill

## No aid or arms

WASHINGTON, Dec 13, (UPI): President Bush signed post-Iran-Contrabans legislation yesterday banning US foreign aid and commercial arms sales to countries supporting international terrorism.

The State Department has specified states supporting terrorism as Cuba, Iran, Libya, North Korea, South Yemen and Syria.

In a written statement, Bush said he wished "to re-emphasize this nation's strong determination to oppose international terrorists and the states that support them."

"Curbing state support to terrorists is essential in reducing the menace of international terrorism," Bush said.

Under the new law, the President can waive the ban on arms sales to certain countries if he certifies to Congress the sale is essential to US security.

The legislation provides for criminal penalties of 10 years in prison, a \$1 million fine and \$500,000 in civil penalties for violators. It requires the administration to make quarterly reports to Congress on the transfer of arms from one country to another.

The measure closes loopholes in a 1986 law that permitted the President to waive any export ban if he made a "national interest determination" without notifying Congress.

But as a result of the Iran-Contra scandal, when arms were sold to Iran and the profits diverted to rebels in Nicaragua despite a congressional prohibition, tighter control was imposed on munitions exports.

Bush said he will interpret the prohibitions in the legislation "as placing no limit on our negotiations and communications with foreign governments."

## German police find Red Army Faction hideout

KARLSRUHE, West Germany, Dec 13, (AP): Police have found a rural hideout they believe was used by two suspected Red Army Faction terrorists who were arrested last week, the federal prosecutor's office reported today.

The hideout was an old farm cottage near the town of Lasbek in the northern state of Schleswig-Holstein, the office said in a statement.

It said the cottage had been used by Ute Hladki and Frank Deike, who were arrested following the slaying two weeks ago of leading German banker

Alfred Herrhausen, chairman of Deutsche Bank. Authorities have declined to stay if the arrests were connected to the attack on Herrhausen, who was killed when the armored Mercedes he was riding in was blown up near his home in Bad Homburg.

North German radio in the port city of Bremen said today that police received a tip the cottage had been used by the two arrested suspects, and that another couple staying there had fled shortly after announcement of the arrests on Thursday.

## Gorbachev in fierce clash with hardliners

Resignation offer shows strength in the party

MOSCOW, Dec 13, (Agencies): Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev, angered by attacks from conservatives on his reforms, offered to step down at a key Communist Party meeting last weekend, a Soviet parliamentary deputy reported today.

Author Danil Granin, writing the weekly Moscow News, said he heard "direct accusations against Gorbachev, that his line was incorrect" from top communist officials at last Saturday's session of the policy-setting central committee.

"It was not surprising that these speeches deeply wounded Gorbachev. And so much so that he declared: if the work done over these past

years is assessed in that way, then he was ready to lay down his powers," Granin wrote.

Granin's comments in the liberal weekly, which has long campaigned for full openness in political reporting, were the first detailed published account to appear in Moscow of what happened at the clearly stormy meeting.

Estonian Prime Minister Indrek Toome indicated in a Tallinn newspaper on Sunday that Gorbachev had said he could step down, but the editor of Pravda told reporters in Moscow Gorbachev did not offer to resign.

And since rumours that there was a fierce clash at the plenum began to circulate on Sunday, other Soviet officials — including Gorbachev backers — have sought to play down suggestions that the Kremlin chief put his job on the line.

According to some reports from Soviet sources, Gorbachev's offer to move aside appeared to halt the attacks at the meeting and was not taken up. Granin himself did not explain how events developed after the Kremlin chief's suggestion.

But Gorbachev is known to have made a similar offer at least twice before — a move which Soviet analysts say has each time helped demonstrate his underlying strength and the fact that the conservatives have no one ready to replace him.

Granin, a member of the Congress of People's Deputies which is currently in session under Gorbachev's direction, said he was among invited guests at the Central Committee plenum. "What happened there causes me concern," he said.

He added: "Until now, we knew that new thinking was meeting resistance from conservatives and dogmatists around the country."

"But here, for the first time, not at a factory meeting but from the mouths of the leaders of major party committees I heard direct accusations against Gorbachev, that his line was wrong, and that 'it is time for us all to take the correct road.'"

"Another speaker declared: 'If the capitalists and the Pope are praising us, then we have taken the wrong road.'"

Granin said the meeting convinced him that Gorbachev was engaged in a fierce struggle with the top ranks of the party.

When the Kremlin chief offered to step down, the author added: "It was a very difficult moment. As a fellow human, I understand his anger, his disgust, and felt that this was the result of long daily attacks from the party apparatus, the result of constant pressure from the conservatives."

"Perhaps a political leader has no right to show such weakness, but there are limits to any patience and endurance although Gorbachev possesses these qualities in ample measure," Granin wrote.

Gorbachev was today nominated for next year's Nobel peace prize, and is the Norwegian population's favourite for the prestigious award, an opinion poll shows.

A Norwegian Nobel committee source confirmed today that the Soviet President had been nominated by two respected Norwegian politicians, former Liberal Party leader Helge Seip and independent parliamentarian Anders Aune.

Candidates for the Nobel peace prize may be nominated by former prize winners and by past and present parliamentarians world-wide. Nominations close on Feb 1 each year.

Gorbachev has been nominated several times in the past, both on his own and jointly with former US President Ronald Reagan.



Gorbachev addresses the opening session of Congress.



People's deputy Boris Yeltsin (centre) listens to speeches during the opening session of the second Congress at the Kremlin. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Agency to verify arms treaties

## Woerner backs US plan

BRUSSELS, Dec 13, (Reuters): Nato Secretary-General Manfred Woerner today backed US proposals that the alliance should set up an agency to verify arms control treaties.

Speaking before a two-day meeting of Nato foreign ministers starting tomorrow, Woerner also pledged that a solution would be found to a Greek-Turkish row that has prevented the West signing a draft treaty at East-West talks on conventional forces.

Woerner told a news conference that proposals for building a united Europe, presented by US Secretary of State James Baker yesterday in West Berlin, were a "bold idea" and that Nato must help shape the future architecture of the continent.

"I strongly support the proposal on establishing a kind of verification mechanism. It should not be a kind of institution or agency — to deal with those questions efficiently," he said.

But individual nations within the 16-nation alliance would bear the ultimate responsibility for making sure there was no cheating on arms control pacts.

Baker proposed building a united Europe on the basis of a new political role for Nato and of closer formal ties between Washington and the European Economic Community (EEC), now that the iron curtain is crumbling.

But Woerner rejected suggestions that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation should set up more formal ties with the EEC, since both were trying to encourage change and the democratic reforms sweeping eastern Europe.

"There is a need for exchange of information," since many of our member nations are the same, there is no need for institutional links," he said. "We feel no rivalry whatsoever."

All of the 12 EEC states are also members of Nato, except countries that are not EEC members.

Woerner said the regular Nato foreign ministers' meeting would examine the alliance's changing role at the end of a year which has seen the collapse of old-style communism in many of the Warsaw pact states.

"We cannot and will not ignore the fact that the historic changes we see all around us will have an impact on Nato itself," he said. "The alliance ... must be increasingly an instrument that can shape political change."

This would include discussing ways of boosting co-operation and consultation within Nato, which has no supranational authority and relies on consensus among its members.

The ministers would also tackle the tricky question of German reunification, he said.

Some Nato allies have privately expressed fears that the rapid pace of change in East Germany could destabilise central Europe, especially since the two German states form the front-line for both Nato and the Warsaw Pact.

"We do not want to establish any kind of timetable ... (or) concrete plan that would be overtaken by events tomorrow," Woerner said. "The alliance's objective remains the overcoming of the division of Europe and of Germany."

Nato foreign ministers are expected to push Greece and Turkey to resolve a dispute over the port of Mersin, which has delayed the table of a western draft treaty at Vienna talks on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE).

Immunants swoop: British police and immigration officers in London have made one of the biggest ever raids on suspected illegal immigrants, it was reported.

A total of 64 people, thought to be of western African origin, who were working as cleaners are being questioned by immigration officials at a police station in London Wednesday morning.

The 21 men and 43 women were working for a cleaning firm at offices of petrol giant BP in the financial area of London known as The City. (Kuna)

Marchais released from hospital: The French Communist Party leader, Georges Marchais was released from hospital in Paris Wednesday but will not be able to attend meetings of the party's central committee.

Marchais, the secretary-general of the Communist Party since 1972, was admitted to hospital last Sunday for a light heart attack, but his condition now is considered "normal".

The communist leader thus will not be able to attend the current session of the party's central committee which is concentrated on the future of relations with East bloc countries. (Kuna)

Court acquits 168 suspects: A court on Wednesday acquitted 168 reputed Red Brigades terrorists charged with waging an armed insurrection and civil war against the state.

Several defendants who screamed praises of the assassination two weeks ago of a powerful West German banker were removed from the courtroom before the verdict was announced. The bomb blast that killed Alfred Herrhausen in a Frankfurt suburb was believed to be the work of the Red Army faction, a leftist terrorist group.

The verdict, delivered after a 15-day trial, follows the October acquittal of 253 defendants charged with the same crimes. (AP)

US, Soviet conducts tests: The US and Soviet military conducted their first communication tests last week under an agreement designed to prevent potentially dangerous clashes, the Defence Department said Tuesday.

"It's a reflection of an increased element of trust," said spokesman Pete Williams. "It's a recognition of the force that both sides have and an attempt to avoid any accidents from being caused by the inability to communicate with the other side." (AP)

Moscow tests first carrier: The Soviet Union is believed to be conducting flight tests on its first full-scale aircraft carrier whose commissioning raises questions about Moscow's future naval strategy, Western naval sources said on Wednesday.

They said the 65,000-tonne Tbilisi was the first of at least three such carriers planned for the Soviet Navy which up to now has relied on submarines as its main force for both offensive and defensive strategy.

"Tbilisi is at sea, apparently conducting sea trials with prototype aircraft. This is what we would expect if anything the Soviets are a little ahead of schedule," one source said. (Reuters)

## GDR accepts Bonn offer

EAST BERLIN Dec 13, (AP): East Germany expanded co-operation with West Germany today by accepting Bonn's offer of a billion-mark (\$540 million) environmental improvement project.

The agreement, which involves 17 East German states, was announced in Bonn by West German Environment Minister Klaus Töpfer.

The agreement came one day after East German Premier Hans Modrow welcomed US support for East Germany's reform process and called for closer ties with the United States.

East German cities also appealed for help in preparing for free elections, food aid and advice on a range of reforms that have markedly changed their municipal operations, according to West German officials.

At a conference in Cologne, West Germany, municipal authorities reported that they had been overwhelmed with calls for assistance from their East German sister cities.

While signs of increasing co-operation between the two Germans have mounted, the state-run press and East Germany's communist-led governments have made clear that they reject reunification and will seek to retain a traditional socialist course.

In a detailed proposal for restructuring the Communist Party published today by the newspaper Neues Deutschland, the communists called for a course that adheres to "socialist, anti-fascist, pacifist and all-internationalist traditions, especially those of Lenin."

The proposal is to be considered when the party's emergency congress resumes deliberations this weekend. The session began last Friday, but suspended its work after naming a new party leader, Gregor Gysi.

West German officials have offered large amounts of aid to East Germany on condition that it begins some capitalist reforms. But the communist-led East Berlin government has agreed to discuss only those co-operative ventures that fit into the socialist structure of East Germany's economy.

Modrow and other top officials also have repeatedly rejected West German ideas for merging the two German states, though they have expressed interest in closer ties that benefit both sides without compromising either's sovereignty.

Meanwhile, the opposition group Neues Forum has filed a legal complaint against former communist leader Egon Krenz and the head of the secret police force for allegedly destroying evidence needed in probes of corruption among high party officials.

The official ADN news agency reported the accusations made against Krenz and Wolfgang Schwandt. The decision to seek charges against the two was made at a Neues Forum meeting in Leipzig.

Yesterday Modrow met with US Secretary of State James Baker, who expressed US support for the democratic reforms introduced in East Germany.

Under the rule of ousted leader Erich Honecker, relations between the United States and East Germany often were tense, largely because of the Berlin Wall and other barriers to free movement that were enforced with shoot-to-kill orders.

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مركز العمل



Release men

The mothers, wives, and children of 34 Palestinian men from the West Bank town of Beit Sahour, jailed for non-payment of taxes to the Israeli government, demonstrate on Mount Scopus overlooking Anata jail where the men are being held. The women are requesting their men be released in order that their families may be reunited for the Christmas holiday. (Reuters wirephoto)

**Respect Islamic dress:** Two leading Iranian officials on Tuesday advised women to respect Islamic values, especially the dress code concerning the hejab, or veil. Tehran Television reported.

Parliament Speaker Mahdi Karubi said he hoped that all the Muslim community, especially young Muslim women, would abide by the character, behaviour, sayings and spartan life of Fatima Zahra to further Islam. In a separate statement, Ayatollah Mohammed Yazdi, head of the judiciary, said legal offices around the country will "confront the phenomenon of bad hejab," the television said. (AP)

**Arab news agency:** Four Arab states have agreed to form a joint news agency which will use pooled reports from their national news services, Egyptian news agency officials said on Wednesday.

They said the heads of the Egyptian, Jordanian, Iraqi and North Yemeni agencies decided during two days of talks in Cairo this week that Jordan's Petra news agency would co-ordinate the new service. (Reuters)

**Military action stepped up:** Polisario guerrillas fighting Morocco for independence of the Western Sahara vowed on Wednesday to step up their military struggle, saying Rabat was blocking peace efforts.

A statement by the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, the Polisario's diplomatic arm, said: "By its negative attitude, Morocco leaves no other choice for the Sahrawi people but to intensify its resistance." (Reuters)

**More aid for Ethiopia:** The United States is promising more than 100,000 metric tons of new food aid to Ethiopia to help soften the blow of a drought that threatens to be as bad as the 1984 disaster that starved an estimated one million people.

And Mark L. Edelman, acting director of the US agency for international development, on Tuesday welcomed reports that Ethiopia's hardline Marxist government will allow a "corridor for food aid to flow to famine in the embattled northern provinces of Tigray and Amhara." (AP)

**Chemical plant probe:** Federal prosecutors have expanded their investigation into allegations that West German companies helped Libya build a chemical weapons plant, an official said on Tuesday.

Criminal probes were opened against three high-level employees of Salzgitter Industrie AG, a west German industrial concern, said Peter Wechsung, an official in the federal prosecutor's office in Mannheim.

**Envoys present credentials:** Three ambassadors presented their credentials to Lebanese President Elias Hrawi at his temporary office in East Lebanon on Wednesday, officials said.

The ambassadors of France, Algeria and Egypt — Rene Ala, Mohammed Lakhdar Bahi and Hassan Stash — submitted their papers in separate ceremonies at Hrawi's heavily-guarded villa in the village of Abilah. (Reuters)

**Afghan fighting:** Clashes in northern Afghanistan have killed 127 pro-government troops and 47 Muslim rebels, rebels reported on Wednesday.

The fighting centred around Mazar-e-Sharif, capital of Balkh province, about 36 miles (60 kilometres) south of Soviet territory, according to rebels and Western diplomats in Pakistan. (AP)

**Autopsy ordered:** An autopsy was ordered on Tuesday on a 20-day-old Palestinian girl, an army spokesman said, after reports the infant may have been accidentally stepped on by soldiers during an arrest raid on her home in the occupied West Bank.

The baby, Baraa Lutfi Labadi, was pronounced dead by a Palestinian doctor after soldiers crowded into her home in the village of Yamoun during an early morning search for suspected Palestinian activists, Arab reporters said.

**394 drug smugglers arrested:** In a nationwide sweep Iran's anti-drug squads confiscated more than 500 kilograms of drugs, arrested 256 smugglers and rounded up 138 pushers and drug addicts in 48 hours, Tehran Radio reported on Tuesday.

The Iranian media have reported thousands of drug-related arrests since an anti-narcotics crackdown was launched a year ago. (AP)

**Cease illicit activities:** Iran's interior minister summoned members of the Afghan mujahideen living in Tehran on Tuesday and warned them if the illicit activities of some of their countrymen did not cease, the offenders would be deported or confined to camps.

Tehran Radio, said Abdullah Nouri warned the mujahideen leaders that some Afghan refugees living in Iran had "abused Tehran's hospitality." (AP)

**Ethiopia denies:** Ethiopia denied reports it had agreed to the mass migration of Ethiopian Jews in exchange for Israeli military aid or had granted Israel a military base on one of its Red Sea islands.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in a statement released late Tuesday, described the reports as "baseless and malicious."

It singled out a report in the Sunday Times of London which quoted unspecified Western diplomatic sources as saying Israel had agreed to supply weapons to Ethiopia in a swap for Ethiopian Jews, known as Falashas. (AP)

**Nasserites party:** An outlawed group has become the first legal opposition party in Marxist South Yemen, benefiting from an Arabian-style perestroika in the country that is working to end over two decades of self-imposed isolation.

The Nasserite Unionist Organisation, named after late Egyptian leader Gamal Abdel Nasser, said in a statement published in the official press on Wednesday it wanted to take part in the democratic process after being ignored for 22 years. (Reuters)

# Libya won't boycott EEC meeting

CAIRO, Dec 13, (Reuters): Libya has been persuaded to attend a meeting of Arab and EEC foreign ministers in Paris next week and has dropped a threat of sanctions against the participants, Egyptian officials said today.

The officials, who asked not to be named, said that during Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's latest diplomatic foray, Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi had been persuaded to ease his hostility towards dialogue with EEC states.

Mubarak paid a surprise one-day visit to the neighbouring north African state

yesterday to smooth ties troubled by 12 years of territorial and political disputes.

The breakthrough came in four hours of discussion led by Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Magid and Omar Al Montasser, secretary-general of the People's Committee — Libya's equivalent of prime minister.

Libya has yet to confirm it will attend the Paris meeting set for Dec 21 and 22, and a European diplomat based in Cairo said he remained sceptical of Khaddafi's intentions.

"Libya and Syria had imposed conditions (on talking to the EEC), such as

erasing them from an EEC 'black list'," said one Egyptian Foreign Ministry source.

"President Mubarak and Col Khaddafi have emphasised the importance of co-ordination at the international forums," Egyptian Information Minister Safwat Al Sherif said.

Al Sherif said the leaders agreed that Libya should participate in the Euro-Arab conference scheduled to begin in Paris.

Tripoli had said it would boycott the Paris conference, called for by French President Francois Mitterrand, unless an economic boycott imposed by the

European Economic Community against Syria and Libya was lifted.

Egypt and Libya have also agreed to build roads connecting oases, share television programmes, and co-operate in agricultural and industrial projects, major relaxations in tensions between the long-feuding neighbours.

Mubarak of Egypt and President Hafez Assad of Syria have agreed on several basic points that would pave the way for a resumption of Syrian-Egyptian diplomatic ties, it was reported in Kuwait today.

## Jordan lacks quality war jets

LONDON, Dec 13, (Kuna): The commander of Jordan's Royal Air Force, Major General Ihsan Shurdam, has said that his country has a variety of missiles and anti-aircraft guns, but "badly needs a more modern system."

In an interview with Jane's Defence Weekly today, he said that "to survive we need to be able to move our Hawks (or other missiles) around in an emergency, to keep them. Without mobility we are sitting ducks."

Major General Shurdam warned that the weakness of Jordan's air defence system could "proportionately affect our decision-makers in the future."

The specialised magazine said that Jordan lacks high quality aircraft. Orders for Mirage 2000 and Tornados were cancelled because of the Jordanian economic difficulties.

Both of these aircraft were considered because the US Congress vetoed sales of F16s following pressure from the pro-Israel lobby.

But the commander of the Jordanian Royal Air Force said: "I do not think that in the foreseeable future we can pursue such a project."

"At one time we were hoping we would get a measure of help from the Arab states, that they would realise the importance of the stability in Jordan and the importance of Jordan facing an immediate neighbour with which we do not yet have peace."

In answer to a question, he refused to comment on reports that the Jordanian Air Force has Mi-19 helicopters on order.

He suggested that the economic downswing has caused a rethinking in the Royal Jordanian Air Force logistics and supply.

"We are not flying as much as I would personally like to see our men flying," Shurdam complained.

## Warsaw offered as meeting place

Poland confirms Arafat offer

WARSAW, Dec 13, (Agencies): Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has proposed holding peace talks with Israel in Warsaw, Poland's Foreign Ministry said today.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Stefan Stanislawski said Arafat met Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Jan Majewski in Tunisia yesterday and asked him to make the proposal to Israel.

"We will inform Israel that Poland is ready to welcome both Palestine and Israel in Poland," Stanislawski told Reuters.

A spokesman for the Palestinian embassy in Warsaw confirmed that Arafat made the proposal to Majewski but Israeli diplomats in the Polish capital declined immediate comment.

Majewski was in Tunisia to brief the PLO, the Arab League and the Tunisian government on the motives behind Poland's decision to restore full diplomatic relations with Israel in the near future.

A Polish official who asked not to be identified said Arafat's initiative appeared calculated to show that the PLO was ready to go anywhere to meet the Israelis.

"I imagine he wanted to stress his readiness to start negotiations with Israel and his

optimism that there is a possibility of starting negotiations and resolving this problem," the official said.

British Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave was of the opinion that an international peace conference on the Middle East was very close, saying indications from both conflicting parties were encouraging.

The British official did not clarify these indications in his response to a question by a Kuwaiti daily on the meeting between Waldegrave and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and American Secretary of State James Baker in London last Monday.

The United States, Egypt and the PLO are pursuing "very, very intensive efforts" in Cairo to compile a list of Palestinian negotiators for preliminary peace talks with Israel, an Israeli legislator said today.

Aryeh Eliav, a Member of Parliament from the centre-left Labour Party, made the comment after returning from a meeting in Cairo with PLO officials including Nabil Shaat, a top political aide to Yasser Arafat.

Eliav said the contacts in Cairo are aimed at submitting Palestinian names for Israeli approval in Washington next month as a step

towards the first direct formal negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians.

Eliav is the first Israeli official to confirm a report by the daily Yediot Ahronot saying behind-the-scenes Middle East peace contacts are underway despite Israel's insistence that the PLO be excluded from a peace effort.

Avi Pazner, a spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, denied the report at the time. He also said Israeli cabinet secretary Eliakim Rubinstein would go to Washington this week to seek written US guarantees that the PLO be excluded from peace efforts.

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens yesterday described Jordan as the Palestinian state, repeating a statement by Shamir which angered Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"In saying that Jordan is Palestine, I am not expressing a value judgement but just the facts," Arens told a meeting of the Israeli information centre.

A senior Palestinian official has described the expected meetings for the US, Egypt and Israel's foreign ministers in Washington to discuss formation of the Palestinian delegation for talks with Israel as an attempt to impose a tripartite guardianship on the Palestinian people.

## Protest at US Mideast policies

AMMAN, Dec 13, (Reuters): Jordanian riot police barred demonstrators from heading to the United States embassy yesterday where they intended to burn an American flag in protest at Washington's Middle East policies.

More than 40 policemen with teargas canisters and batons blocked the 400-strong crowd as it marched through the Shmeisani district towards the embassy.

Assad Abdul-Rahman, a member of the Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile and Jordanian parliamentarian Faris Al Nabulsi appealed to the demonstrators to abandon the march.

Waving Palestinian and Jordanian flags and posters carrying anti-American slogans, the protesters turned into a side street and proceeded to Al Hussein refugee camp where they dispersed.

They denounced US Secretary of State James Baker and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt for trying to bring Israelis and Palestinians into direct peace talks and attacked Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's plan for Palestinian elections.

The march coincided with a week-long celebration to commemorate the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip which entered its third year on Dec 8.

Policemen followed the almost three-hour protest and only interfered to organise the traffic.

## PoW issue, pullout linked: Iran

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 13, (AP): Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati yesterday continued to link the release of prisoners of war with Iraq's withdrawal from Iranian territory, a condition rejected by Baghdad.

After meeting with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and other senior UN officials, Velayati said Iraq has not yet accepted the UN's proposed agenda for peace talks.

That agenda, contained in a Sept 22 report on the UN Iran-Iraq military observer group, calls for immediate withdrawal to the pre-war borders and an exchange of prisoners without delay.

"Iran has reiterated our commitment to the agenda," said Velayati.

"Our assessment... is that Iraq still hasn't accepted the agenda."

"And also, we do hope that Iraq will accept our recent proposal for simultaneous withdrawal of the forces and repatriation of the PoWs," he added.

On Monday, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz met with the UN chief and said, "we refuse to make any linkage between the question of prisoners of war and any other question."

Both men are in New York to speak before the General Assembly's special session on apartheid and to meet separately with UN officials in an attempt to revive the stalled peace talks.

**Silkworms fired in manoeuvres**

NICOSIA, Dec 13, (AP): Iran said today its forces launched Chinese-made Silkworm missiles into practice targets during naval exercises in the Gulf and Sea of Oman.

The official Islamic republic news agency said five Iranian missile units of the Revolutionary Guards Corps participated in the exercise late yesterday.

The dispatch did not give the precise location of the war-games but it appeared the missile batteries were overlooking, or near, the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

The Iranian agency said the missiles were aimed at "hypothetical enemy positions." It did not say how many were launched.

It quoted an army commander aboard the command ship Kharg as saying that during the operation, Iranian forces clad in blue uniforms chased "hypothetical enemy troops" dressed in orange uniforms out of the Oman Sea to the mouth of the Indian Ocean.

# WINTER

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## Amendments in long-term plan to be unveiled

### Increased investment in health, education

THE Minister of Planning and acting Minister of Public Health Dr Abdul Rahman Abdullah Al Awadi holds a press conference at the Planning Ministry premises in Sharq Saturday afternoon during which he will unveil the government's long-term development strategy and outline the next national five-year development plan (90/91-94/95).

Quoting reliable official sources, Seyasah said that the minister would during the press conference announce the amendments incorporated into the national development strategy endorsed by the Council of Ministers last week. The strategy contained the policies, objectives, plans and requirements required by the stages to come, including the interim and sectorial objectives for the various government ministries, departments and the private sector.

The sources revealed that new items were incorporated into the strategy to meet the requirements of the forthcoming

stage, which lay main stress on the building of the qualified Kuwaiti individual and increase in foreign investments, to utilise the returns in optimising internal development activities.

#### Investments

The sources said that the building of the Kuwaiti individual would be achieved through increasing investments in the fields of health, industry, education and productivity, with particularly emphasis

on promoting support of research, training and scientific centres and establish the necessary inter-links to connect them to the existing university and applied education institutes to cater to development requirements.

The sources pointed out that the new strategy included ways on how to redress the population balance, enhance the economic stake, diversify national income sources and increase productivity in the oil field and private sector activities.

## Education evaluation illogical: budget dept

THE large number of employees who are evaluated as "excellent" in their annual evaluation reports came under criticism by the budget control department at the Ministry of Education.

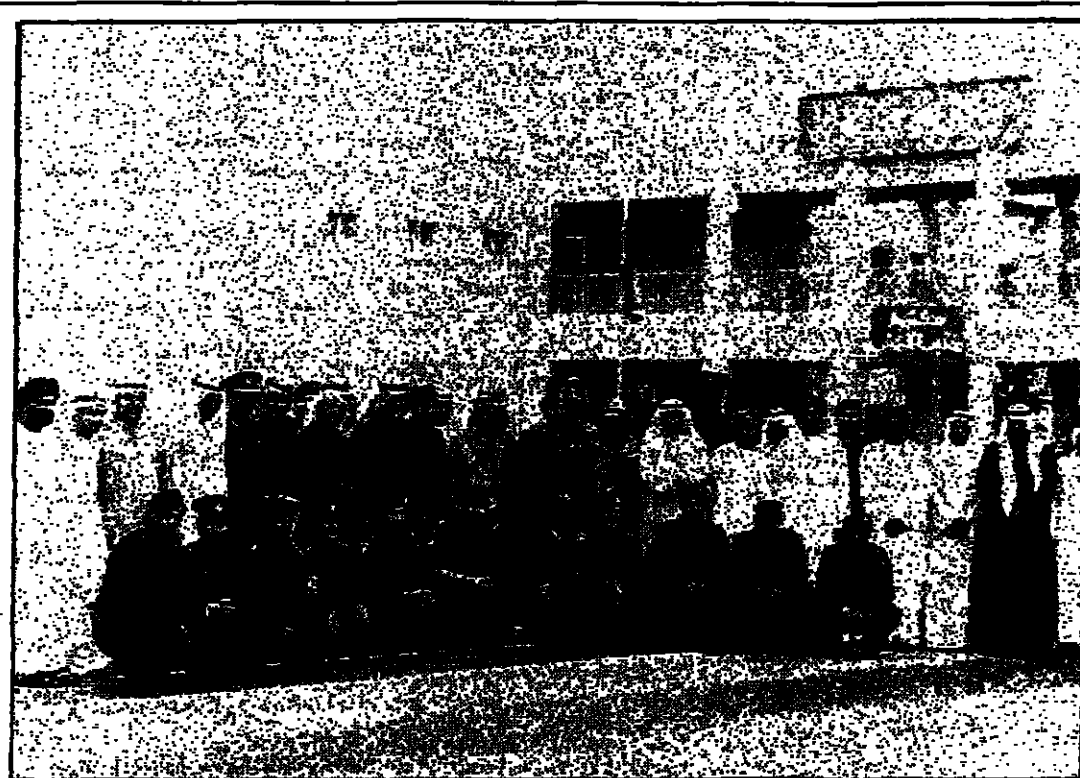
The findings elucidated in a report issued by the budget control department said that these evaluations do not reflect the truth. The report said that the evaluation reports are only determined on the basis of annual promotions and allowances and do not encompass other vital elements that should be taken into consideration when arriving at a realistic evaluation.

The report called for developing a comprehensive criteria for undertaking such evaluations and recommended that the form should differ according to the nature of the jobs. It said that the form to evaluate employees in the supervisory category should differ from that used to evaluate technical or executive employees.

#### Bias

The report points out that many directors of departments and officials do not give due cognisance to annual reports and base evaluations on their personal relationship with their employees. This is detrimental not only to deserving employees, but is also detrimental to public interests, the report said.

The report added that 50.6 per cent of teachers in schools are rated "excellent" followed by 70 per cent females in special education and 60.15 per cent males and 69.6 per cent of administrative staff of the ministry also being rated as excellent. The report concluded that these figures do not reflect the true standings of these employees.



Interior Ministry visited

GCC airport officials currently visiting Kuwait, yesterday paid a visit to the special forces department of the Interior Ministry.

They were received by the director of the department, Col Bader Ahmad Al Marzouk. The officials toured the various sections of the department and visited the special forces exhibition.

## 8 new family doctors graduate

THE Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialisations has graduated a new batch of family practitioners comprising eight doctors, and since the establishment of its diploma course in family practice in 1984 graduated 30 doctors, males and females, Dr Abdulla Al Refai, secretary general of the institute said.

He described the family medicine system as a revolution over the common medical practices, stressing that Kuwait was consistently endeavouring to apply the family medicine practice in all health centres.

To apply the family medicine practice in as many health centres as possible, requires time and effort. Therefore, a special programme of parallel training had been developed for general practitioners, the official said.

He added that this programme aimed at training orienting participant-doctors in the rudiments of family medicine practice, which enabled them to develop their professional skills and provide better health services.

He said that 48 doctors, males and females participated in the one-year parallel training programme each year. The

programme consisted of an intensive training course held in collaboration with the British Royal Academy for General Practitioners.

He pointed out that the family medicine system fostered confidence between doctor and patient and this is reflected positively on the medical services rendered, which led to a reduction in the percentage of patients referred from health centres to hospitals, and a similar reduction in medical prescriptions issued and also of the number of antibiotic injections administered, Refai said.

## 40pc firms should be liquidated: economist

KUWAITI economists have categorically stated that many companies listed in the stock market should be scrutinised to determine their financial standings and organisational structures.

Fahd Al Ibrahim, director of local investments at the Public Investment Authority (PIA) said that it has studied the economic situations of all companies where PIA owns the majority of shares. The authority has researched the companies that were unable to continue their activities, the official said. PIA is carrying out a follow up programme to evaluate the performance of its companies periodically, Ibrahim added.

The recommendations of the Joint Economic Committee to study the circumstances that led to the failure of companies is intended to give an insight into ways and means for restructuring these firms and provide them the needed support. These measures cover also the private sector and companies in which the government owns the minority of shares. Ibrahim disclosed that there are several closed companies and grand establishments that need to solve their crisis.

Speaking on the issue, the well-known Kuwaiti economist Jassem Al Saadoun said that the local economy should liquidate about 40 per cent of companies registered at the stock market. "Any neutral study will show that many of these companies are unable to continue their activities," Saadoun said, and added that changing boards of these companies is not subjected to technical justifications, but for social reasons that affect the performance of these companies negatively. Many other economists concurred with Saadoun that several firms should be studied to address areas of their main crisis.

Dr Ziyad Taqi from the National Bank of Kuwait said that local banks can play an important role in solving the crisis of these companies by developing their roles. The banks provide these companies with credit facilities. The banks can develop these facilities, and develop the administrative efficiency of these companies. The banks can provide the companies with consultative and administrative experiences, he said.

## Bill puzzle

MANY consumers are still unable to understand the new accounting system related to the payment of electricity and water bills, Salem Al Marja, head of consumers centre at the office of the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) in Salmiya said.

The official said that the employees of the ministry who receive the readings of the meters of electricity and water consumption are employed after being provided adequate training courses and several of these employees have been with the MEW for many years.

However, he said that all complaints of erroneous readings of meters are promptly looked into by ministry officials. Marta added that in most instances, it has been observed that the problem lay in the fact that users had not paid their bills regularly and this accumulated amount caused misunderstandings.

Those who do not pay their bills for two to three months are given a warning of two weeks, after which if the bill still remains unpaid, services are disconnected, Marta said.

## Emirates Holidays steps up promotion

EMIRATES Holidays, the travel and leisure arm of the international airline of the UAE, is stepping up its promotion of holidays in the Emirates and overseas.

A new range of specially-designed brochures has been published aimed at raising the profile of Dubai as a holiday destination and at increasing the company's share of the travel market in the UAE, Oman and eight other destinations in the Middle East and Indian sub-continent.

A 17-page glossy brochure, highlighting stopover breaks in Dubai and the UAE, has been published to encourage European holiday makers to visit the country. And, with an estimated 16,500 tourists expected in the country this season, Emirates Holidays has produced an eight-page folder — Arabian Adventures — designed to capture a sizeable portion of the flourishing tour trade. Printed in Arabic, English and German, it highlights 14 excursions and safaris in Dubai, Sharjah, Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, the east coast and Ras Al Khaimah.

The tours offer travellers the chance to savour the history and traditions of the UAE with visits to museums, old forts, show buildings yards and camel races. The safaris offer an assortment of desert activities from dinner in the dunes, to overnight camping expeditions and there are even special courses for those wishing to learn the techniques of desert driving.

#### Increasing

"This year we have already detected a notable increase in tourism," said Emirates Holidays manager, Paul Claburn. "In October our excursion bookings were up 140 per cent and our safaris rose by 88 per cent over the same period last year."

"The UAE as a destination is enjoying rapid growth and Emirates Holidays is constantly striving to improve its services. As part of our commitment to this, we have recently bought four new top-of-the-range Toyota Landcruisers to help extend our popular safari programme."

Meanwhile, to cater to people in the UAE seeking holidays overseas, an 11-page brochure offers all-inclusive holidays to Sri Lanka, the Maldives, India, Pakistan, Egypt, Jordan, Turkey and Britain. Once again the publication has been drafted in both Arabic and English.

Also aimed at the local market are short breaks in Oman. Special packages have been put together offering the choice of a six-night vacation in the country or a mini-break of three nights stay. A six-page pull-out pamphlet — On the Oman Trail — has been produced in both English and Arabic, mapping out tours of the country's spectacular coastline and scenic interior.

## Kuwaiti national found dead

PERSONNEL of the Criminal Investigation Department at Capital Governorate found the body of a Kuwaiti national inside his car in the Doha area.

The victim has been identified as 30-year-old Massoud Abdul Hameed Suleiman, married with three children.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the victim's hands were bound and the body had been partially burned. On the day of the incident, sources said that the victim had withdrawn a sum of KD 2,000/- from his bank.

Further investigations are in progress, though no further particulars have been revealed.

■ The Court of First Instance refrained from passing

ing sentence on three persons accused of assaulting each other and directed that they pay in lieu of sentencing an amount of KD 20 as bail and sign a pledge of good conduct for a period of six months.

The court was told that one of the defendants went to take his wife and daughter from his father-in-law's house. A dispute arose between the husband and the wife's two brothers.

In the scuffle, the husband was injured on the neck and face and one of the brother's was slightly injured on the chest.

However, all the accused declared in court that they did not want to press any charges to maintain the family ties and the court took this plea as mitigating circumstances.

## Administrative development continuous, says Rashed

### CSC to intensify efforts

KUWAIT, Dec 13, (Kuna): State Minister for Cabinet Affairs, Acting Chairman of the Civil Service Council Rashed Al Rashed said the increasing awareness in the importance of administrative development and the achievements realised in this regard so far do not imply that the work has come to an end.

Speaking at the 8th meeting of the Supreme Administration co-sponsored by both the Civil Service Council and the Civil Service Commission (Diwan), Rashed urged all to intensify efforts in this sphere.

Concerned authorities have as yet managed to organise eight such meetings which are expected during the current month, he added, noting that activities made so far have yielded fruitful results in administrative development.

He, however, confirmed that

there are still basic issues which need close study and deep examination, and urged all participants not to cease evaluation of the course.

Undersecretary of the Civil Service Commission the bodies concerned with administrative development.

The civil service council, he said, is entrusted with drawing up general policies and following up development programmes.

The Civil Service Commission, in respect with administrative development, is a technical, consultative, specialised body assigned with planning, supervising and controlling implementation of development programmes.

He also said administrative development entails that each minister will nominate an assistant undersecretary for following up development programmes in addition to his tasks.

Development units at various ministries and government departments will co-operate with the Civil Service Commission in planning and follow up of executive programmes.

Assistant undersecretary for administrative development at the Civil Service Commission spoke about areas of development.

He elaborated that administrative development will cover facilitating service procedures, training and rehabilitation of employees, and reconsideration of the current organisational structures.

Development, he added, will include as well readjustment of labour force structure and development of work and information systems.

The participants later ended the meeting with a round of discussion on the said issues.



Social affairs meeting

The Assistant Undersecretary for Social Affairs at Kuwait's Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour Latifa Al Rajabli presided over a meeting yesterday of the Juvenile Care Authority in order to study cases of juveniles. The meeting was attended by the Chancellor at the Court of First Instance Yusuf Al Mutawah, the Director of Islamic studies at the Ministry of Awkaf and Islamic Affairs Abdullah Al Najem and a number of officials from the Ministries of Education and Social Affairs and Labour.

## Fish management symposium, Dec 17-19

By Diana Abou Haidar  
Arab Times staff

THE first "Kuwait Symposium on Shrimp and Fin Fisheries Management in GCC Countries" will be held at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research from December 17 to 19, announced Dr Mohammad Seif, head of the symposium's organisational committee.

In a press conference held yesterday morning, Dr Seif said that the symposium will be held under the auspices of Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed, minister of state for cabinet affairs. It is organised by Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), the Public Authority for Agricultural and Fisheries Resources, Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences and the Secretariat General of the GCC.

Dr Seif said that KISR has been organising local workshops on shrimp and fin fisheries management for many years, and that these workshops and their recommendations have received enthusiastic attention from GCC countries.

#### Studies

"This is why this year we have decided to include other GCC countries and change the workshop's name hoping that it would be the beginning of further co-operation between GCC countries in this field," Dr Seif said.

He added that the symposium which will be held every two years aims at discussing the studies that have been undertaken in the GCC countries in the field of fisheries management during the last two years.

Discussions will result in recommendations concerning the best methods of protecting and utilizing the Gulf's fisheries resources.

Researchers from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Iraq, North Yemen, South Yemen and Kuwait will attend the symposium in addition to experts from the United States of America and Australia.

They will present and discuss 36 papers during five sessions. Dr Seif praised the unlimited support of HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince to science and scientists.

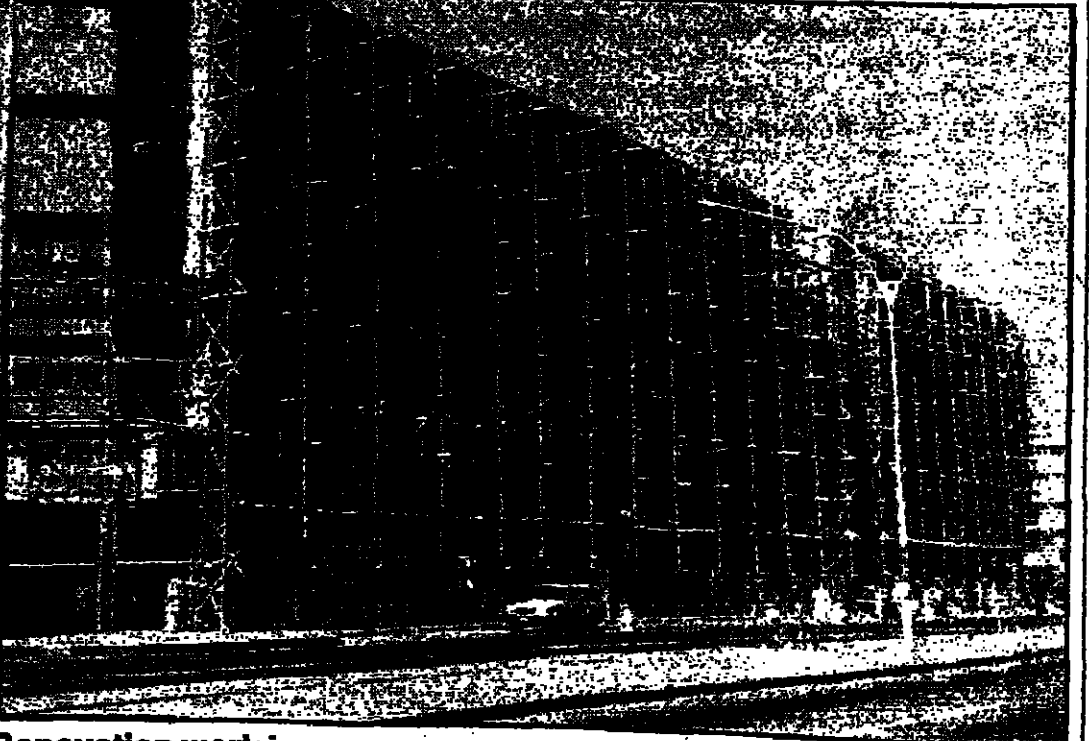
## Cultural season

GULF and Arab Peninsula Studies Magazine is to organise an annual cultural season by hosting a choice of Arab intellectuals, politicians, literates and law makers to debate certain topics, the Editor-in-Chief of the magazine Dr Bader J. Al Yaqoub was quoted as saying.

He told a press conference on the occasion of the magazine's cultural season scheduled to take place next Saturday, that the management had organised a series of lectures on the themes of "The GCC countries — the reality and the aspiration" referring that this issue will be debated through several seminars.

Lectures on GCC Personal Statutes will also be given by Dr Badriya Al Awadi and Abdurassoul Abduriz. The session will be chaired by the Chancellor Abdullah Al Issa.

Meanwhile, Yaqoub said that the magazine was striving to be transferred into a studies centre dealing with the Gulf and Arab Peninsula issues, referring that the pertinent study for the establishment of the proposed centre has been finalised and referred to the Kuwait University Management.



Renovation work in progress

Renovation work of buildings are currently in progress in different locations in the country, in response to the Municipality's call to maintain a bright civilised architectural look in the country.

Massive renovation and remodelling operations on high-rise buildings undertaken by contractors, as seen in the picture seem to fail to take the necessary precautionary measures to prevent any unnecessary risks to passers-by, particularly since heavy giant wooden scaffolds are set up very close to KPTC bus lay-bys.

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Amir receives credentials

HH the Amir received at the Self Palace yesterday morning credentials of Ambassadors of Bhutan and Niger, Sangye Penjor and Abdu Moalam Moosa. The ceremony was attended by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, of the Council of Ministers, Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs, Undersecretary of the Amiri Diwan and Commander of the Amir Guards.

# No reneging on arms deal with UK: Saudis

Financial pressure report denied

MANAMA, Dec 13. (Agencies) The Saudi Arabian government denied reports claiming lower oil prices were forcing it to delay payments for 100 British Tornado aircraft, Saudi newspapers said today.

"The Saudi government has emphasized the soundness of its financial position and ability to honour all agreements concluded with the British and other governments on time," the newspapers quoted the official Saudi Press Agency as saying.

Referring to a report published in an Israeli newspaper which claimed that the Saudi Arab kingdom had decided to borrow from the British government to cover dues falling under recent defence agreements with Britain on the so-called 'Al Yamamah Project', a Saudi government spokesman told the SPA that Riyadh has paid all its dues in full.

"The contacts made between the Saudi and British govern-

ments have ended with the kingdom paying all dues as per the agreements and therefore the need to borrow does not arise," SPA quoted the official, who was not identified, as saying.

The official expressed Saudi Arabia's "deep appreciation to the British government for its constant co-operation."

Reports

In Riyadh, a British embassy spokesman reached by phone from Manama declined comment on the Saudi Press Agency report. "The spokesman also declined to comment on British news reports claiming the Saudis have said to their payments for British arms, and that the British government was guaranteeing a multi-billion dollar loan to Riyadh."

British news reports earlier this week said lower oil prices had forced Riyadh to consider a loan of between two to three billion dollars to pay for arms purchases from Britain.

They said that even though British companies were prepared to grant Saudi Arabia the bridging loan, the Saudi government eventually decided to pay cash rather than face the prospect of paying interest rates.

Earlier this month, an oil industry newsletter said British Petroleum and Shell — which have been lifting 400,000 barrels a day of crude under a barter arrangement for payment for the 100 Tornado aircraft — would be willing to increase this amount to help the Saudis meet a payment shortfall resulting partly from lower oil prices.

The newsletter said Saudi Arabia was considering taking out a \$3 billion loan backed by the British government and to cut back its purchase of fighter jets, but Saudi Arabia denied the report as "inaccurate."

The Al Yamamah deal consisted of Saudi purchases of British Tornado fighter-bomber aircraft and other military hardware

## New cars may get safety equipment

CAR agencies and offices are likely to be asked to supply all new cars with civil protection requirements like first-aid boxes, fire extinguishers and others, Col. Khaled Al Qad, director of the Civil Defence Department announced yesterday.

Addressing the awareness and media campaign committee for civil protection, Qad said that he recently held a meeting with the director of the General Traffic Department, Brig. Abdul Hameed Al Hajji, who agreed to this proposal in principle.

The committee also discussed the role of the Defence Ministry and Kuwait University in the Guidance Plan for civil protection.

Sales of the union this year were higher compared to last year and the percentage of profits made would be distributed among all societies according to the lists of commodities ordered from the Union which would ultimately benefit all shareholders, Swarej said.

He stressed the vital role played by the Kuwait Co-operative Movement at economic and social levels, and said that the primary concern is to provide all needed commodities and services to consumers at

# Spring services centre to facilitate camping

## 650 kilometres allocated

THE Director of the Irrigation and Environmental Protection Department at the Public Works Ministry and chairman of the permanent committee entrusted with executing the Ahmadi projects Jassem Al Shatti has said that the committee has completed a considerable part of the Oasis Centre for Spring Services.

He said at a press conference held in Ahmadi governorate headquarters that the project is intended to provide all needed services for camping activities that mark the beginning of the spring season each year. All necessary security and safety have been included. Accordingly, the centre will be open to serve the needs of campers in the early part of January.

He said that the project is also aimed at providing the maximum protection to wild life resources and the environment against damage sustained by camping activities. Full support and attention had been accorded to this project and related activities by the Governor of Ahmadi Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah, Shatti said.

He added that the project fell in line with the projects executed in this sphere, such as the Greening Week, the Cleanliness Week, participation in the Friendship and Peace Games, besides the current preparations for the National Day celebrations.

He said that the centre would be located opposite the Qali'a area close to the Safar Expressway in the Nuwaiseeb direction and Fahheel road. The centre will provide facilities to campers and furnish services that would help them camp on previously allocated areas.

The services that the centre would provide include public services, police station, ambulance centre, fire-fighting brigade, citizen's office, consumer co-operative service branch, vegetable and fruits market facility, poultry, fresh eggs, meat, fish, bakery goods, dairy products cold drinks, repair services, auto services and all family needs and related services.

He pointed out that a land of 650 kilometres had been allocated for the camping season located in areas where Mina Abdullah road lies in the north direction, Mina Zoor in the south, Safar Expressway in the east and Wafra road in the west.

An action-packed programme has been specially developed for this camping season which includes lectures, symposia, family entertainment events, charity-dish festivities and other communal activities, Shatti said.

## Co-operatives to inter-link: Swarej

THE Chairman of the Kuwait Consumer Co-operative Societies Union Saad Abbas Swarej has emphasised the union's endeavours to activate inter-state trading services, denying any attempt on the Union's part to monopolise the local market.

Quoted by a local daily he said that the Union is seeking to expand its use of modern technology in order to inter-link the co-operative societies to the Union headquarters. He commented that the societies would play an active role in the national landscaping plan.

Sales of the union this year were higher compared to last year and the percentage of profits made would be distributed among all societies according to the lists of commodities ordered from the Union which would ultimately benefit all shareholders, Swarej said.

He stressed the vital role played by the Kuwait Co-operative Movement at economic and social levels, and said that the primary concern is to provide all needed commodities and services to consumers at

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Amiri audience**  
KUWAIT, Dec 13. (Kuna): HH the Amir received in audience today morning HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

**Yemeni message**  
KUWAIT, Dec 13. (Kuna): His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah today received a message from the Democratic People's Republic of Yemen Prime Minister Yassin Said Numan.

The message was delivered by the Yemeni Ambassador to Kuwait Awad Salem Ba-Abad.

**Premier receives**  
KUWAIT, Dec 13. (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah today received at his diwan at Bayan Palace Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Salem and Sheikh Faisal Saud Al Sabah.

HH also received Planning and Acting Public Health Minister Dr Abdulrahman Al Awadi, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdulaziz Al Rashed, Finance Minister Jassem Mohammad Al Khorafi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saud Mohammad Al Osaimi, and Minister of State for Legal Affairs Dhari Abdullah Al Othman.

HH later received Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Khalid Ahmed Al Jassar, Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem, Kuwait's Ambassador to Egypt Abdulrazzak Al Khandari, and Chairman of Farmers Union Sheikh Ali Jaber Al Ahmed.

## BAHRAIN DIGEST

### Surgeon requests cheaper dental care

ATOP dental specialist has called upon the government as well as all dental practitioners in Bahrain to work together utilising their combined resources to provide comprehensive set of dental services backed by the latest modern technology in the face of alarming costs of dental treatment in the island.

Dr Suhayla Al Safar Fakhro told the Arab Times in an interview that despite available modern technology and expertise in the country, the common man is not able to afford the extremely high costs of both basic and advanced forms of dental treatment.

"The progress of dental treatment in general has come about far too late in Bahrain considering the vast advancement made in other fields of medicine. The major problem we face is the high cost of dental treatment in view of expensive equipment, maintenance costs and other expenses. What we need is that combined efforts of both the state and the private sector to inject more resources in this area. Only by increasing our services to more patients can the expenses be reduced, thereby maintaining the high standard of treatment currently available," said Dr Fakhro.

Under the pioneering spirit and initiative of Dr Fakhro a leading dental and oral surgeon here, the first dental laboratory in Bahrain was established about five years ago. The privately funded and operated laboratory, built at a cost of BD30,000, is according to its founder the first project of its kind in Bahrain operated by a doctor and possibly in the region.

According to Dr Fakhro the idea to launch the project was devised in a bid to provide better services at the hands of a doctor instead of relying on merely technicians.

"The lab has been considerably extended over the past year and can provide dental treatment compared to the best medical institutions in the world," said Dr Fakhro.

However, Dr Fakhro complained that rising costs of treatment and lack of support from all concerned have been detrimental in hastening further progress in treating large numbers of patients.

She called for a system based on the National Health Service in Britain, whereby the government may help by subsidising the costs of treatment by sending patients to private practitioners. In this way, she added, a deal may be worked out whereby work will be evenly distributed and everyone, above all patients, will benefit tremendously.

Dr Fakhro also emphasised the need of a campaign to promote dental education on a wide scale using the local media and schools.

She said Bahrain's children are particularly prone to suffer dental diseases because of the affluent lifestyle, neglect of parents to educate their offsprings about dental hygiene and the negative effect of fast food.

Dr Fakhro believed that the island's older generations have retained stronger and healthier teeth than the younger generations primarily because of healthier diet and slower lifestyle.

She recommended that a person should go for dental checkup three times a year.

## Consumers unaware of protection offices

RELATIONS between consumers and the Consumers Protection Offices of Kuwait's Minister of Commerce and Industry are mostly poor, according to a local daily who conducted an opinion poll amongst citizens.

Ahmed Al Shatti, a consumer criticised the Consumers Protection Offices for being lenient to fish mongers. He said that these vendors manipulated prices, and cheated the general public in relation to the various origins of fish that they sold.

Um Abdullah, complained that quite often she has been cheated in her purchases of meat and commented that quite frequently she had realised that the meat she bought was not fresh and on some occasions the weight was less than what she paid for. "Complaining to the consumers protection offices is against our customs and traditions as women in the community" she said.

The daily also reported that several customers interviewed said that they were totally unaware that a consumer protection office existed in Kuwait.

## Scholarships

A TOTAL of 99 Arab graduate students received scholarships from the World Fellowship for the Assistance of Arab Students during the academic year 1988/1989, Dawoud Mussaed Al Saleh, chairman of the Trustees Board of the World Fellowship said.

The fellowship since its establishment in 1976, had extended about 2,125 scholarships to Arab graduates. From this figure, 317 obtained Ph.D degrees, 375 M.A. degrees and the balance B.A. degrees. About 65 per cent of these graduates had studied in the USA, Canada and European countries while the remainder had graduated from Arab, Asian and East European universities, the official said.

Most of these graduates are males and are working the Arab Gulf countries Saleh said.

Meanwhile, Saleh called on companies and businessmen to extend the necessary support to the foundation which had been established in Kuwait by a choice of scholars and businessmen with the objective of extending support and encouragement to graduates to pursue higher studies.



Farwaniya council received

Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah received yesterday at his office, Farwaniya governor and members of the governorate council. Sheikh Salem conferred with them on various issues.

## Largest fireboards shipment

DUBAI: Over three thousand cubic metres of Medium Density Fireboard (MDF) was recently unloaded at Dubai's Jebel Ali Port, marking the largest ever shipment of its kind to arrive in the Middle East. The boards were consigned to Tafsira International, the first of the world's major timber producers to establish a distribution facility in the Gulf. Tafsira, based in Spain, is today acknowledged to be the world's biggest manufacturer of MDF and currently produces more than 500,000 cubic metres of medium density fireboards per annum. In addition, the company also manufactures over 2 million cubic metres of other wooden boards, including chipboard, hardboard, blackboard and melamine-faced board, at its 10 fully-automated plants in Spain, Portugal and Ireland.



Emirates selects associate hotel

Emirates Airlines has appointed Kuwait International Hotel as its associate hotel in Kuwait. The agreement came into effect on 1st December, 1989. It was signed by Mohamed A. Najla, Vice-president—Operations, Kuwait Hotels Company (KHC) and comprises of a number of co-operation arrangements in the field of marketing and operations. During the signing Najla commented, "The young and progressive attitude of Emirates fits exactly with the new, energetic and fresh management style of the Kuwait International Hotel."

Emirates Airlines will operate six direct flights a week from Dubai to Kuwait as of January 1990. Picture shows Ibrahim Al Hashemi, District Manager, Kuwait, Emirates, M.A. Najla, VP—Operations (KHC). Also seen are Narinder S. Pujji, Manager Overseas Development, Emirates and Hermann Simon, GM, Kuwait International.

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# BUSINESS & FINANCE

## Oil issues boost US share prices

NEW YORK, Dec 13 (Reuters): Blue-chip stocks closed sharply higher on Wall Street today after a late rally that traders attributed to a surge in oil issues and bargain-hunting among battered technology shares.

The market just exploded on the upside," said Ken Ducey of S.G. Warburg.

Traders and analysts said unusually cold weather has hit parts of the United States should mean a strong demand for heating oil this winter.

Ducey called the run to energy stocks "a defensive rally," even if the market backs off, oil is still going to be consumed," he noted.

Nearly 177 million shares changed hands on the New York Stock Exchange, compared with 147 million shares on Monday. Advancing issues led declines by nearly a three-to-two margin.

Traders said investors are still lethargic, with no clear signs from the Federal Reserve as to whether it will ease interest rates.

"There is still some hope that the Fed will lower rates," said Alan Ackerman, an analyst with Gruntal and Co. "But there is no urgency to buy. At this time of year, people are making decisions whether to save or spend."

Meanwhile average world oil prices will fall to 16 per barrel next year from 17.94 in 1988 because of excess Opec output, Britain's National Westminster Bank said today.

The bank's market intelligence department works out a daily oil indicator based on an average of spot prices for key grades of crude.

It was \$14.08 for 1986, 17.70 for 1987 and 17.20 for 1988. The indicator on Tuesday stood at \$18.40 reflecting a jump this month, led by heating fuel, is cold weather swept North America and Europe.

But the bank said: "We expect prices to show a sharp fall in the first part of 1990."

It cited prospects of excess supply by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

Oil prices are expected to rise later in the year, our forecast is for an average price for the NatWest oil indicator of \$16 per barrel, down from the expected output for 1989 of \$7, the bank said.

It sees \$17 again in 1991 and \$25 in 1995.

## Oil prices continue to climb

NEW YORK, Dec 13. (OPECNA): Crude oil futures continued to climb on international markets today, spurred by surging product demand, especially in Europe.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), West Texas intermediate (WTI), the American benchmark crude, gained 22 cents to end the day at \$20.70 a barrel for January delivery while the February contract was up 19 cents to \$20.51.

In Gulf Coast spot trading, where oil is bought and sold for cash, WTI was also quoted at \$20.70, an increase of 25 cents.

In explaining the recent strength in the prices of crude oil and by-products, energy analysts here said the situation had been bolstered by a sharp reduction in Soviet petroleum exports, mainly gasoil, which was always in big demand at this time of the year.

In addition, they said, it had become more difficult to move petroleum products around Europe because of low river levels, especially on the Rhine.

The relatively dry European summer had also made water unavailable as coolant for some French nuclear power plants, which have had to switch back to oil and coal.

"While all this is going on, large areas of Europe and North America are experiencing their first taste of winter, which always tends to increase demand for energy," one specialist commented.

A cold front from the Arctic which has been spreading across much of the United States has boosted heating oil futures to their highest levels since early 1986.

Temperatures affecting two-thirds of the nation are between 30 and 30 degrees below normal and weathermen say they could stay that way for some time yet.

## Teaching of English as a banking language

IBS holds seminar

KUWAIT, Dec 13, (Kuna): Under the auspices of Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah the Institute of Banking Studies (IBS) Wednesday held the opening session of the first seminar on the teaching of English as a banking language.

Dr Abdullah Muhana, the IBS director, delivered the opening speech in which he said the interest of the IBS in English language and its applications in the banking field is important to several reasons the most important of which is that English has become the banking language world-wide in terms of communication, conclusion of deals, exchange of experiences and other aspects of banking operations.

Dr Muhana also revealed that the importance of English as the international language of world finance will be growing in the future due to the internationalization of financial markets and the advancement of the means of communications and information systems.

Dr Muhana further mentioned that another reason underlying the importance of English as a banking language is the fact that most of the information related to the development of banking industry is documented and available in English language — hence a contemporary banker has to have a reasonable command of this language so as to be able to perform his job efficiently and to follow-up technical and administrative

developments related to his job.

Muhana concluded by saying that his symposium is the first of its kind in Kuwait, the Gulf and the Arab world, therefore, it is hoped that the outcome of the symposium would be up to the expectations and that the working papers presented and the participants' discussions would create an abundance of concepts and experiences that may help all participants and attendees upgrade their capabilities and reach an in-depth understanding of the details of this technical process and relevant problems and, consequently, succeed in finding better alternatives and more efficient techniques for the teaching of English as a banking language.

The symposium aims at providing specialists interested in the teaching of English for Specific Purposes (ESP) in general, and for banking purposes in particular, with the opportunity to discuss the most recent theories and trends in the field.

The opening session was attended by senior bank officials, teachers of English from the English department and the language center of Kuwait University and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, in addition to other guests with special interest in this area.

The first key-note speaker invited to this symposium was Professor John Swales, head of English Language In-

stitute and Professor of Linguistics at Michigan University, USA, who is considered as one of the pioneers in the field of teaching of English for specific purposes. The other key-note speaker was Dr Richard Allwright a senior lecturer in linguistics at Lancaster University, UK.

Following the opening session, Professor Swales gave a lecture entitled "ESP development world-wide and their relationship to Toebli." The lecture was followed by a discussion of several subjects related to this vital issue.

Then the first session of the symposium was opened under the chairmanship of Dr Rasha Hammad Al Sabah, assistant rector for community

service and information, where three researches were presented.

The first paper, "the preparation of the Toebli" was presented by the head of the English language unit of the IBS, Dr Mohsen El Shamy followed by a paper presented by Dr Wilmon of Wales University, UK, while Sha'aban Alfi presented a paper on the preparation of teachers specialised in the teaching of English as a banking language.

The evening session was presided by John Peterson, where two working papers were presented, the first by Dr Farouk Mabrouk and Dr Fayza Khalaf on "prerequisites for ESP programmes," and the second by Hussein Quader on "translation for banking purposes."

Arif Khan tries to improve air services

## Liberalisation won't be reversed, says Singh

M.C. Bose

Business editor  
AIR chief Marshall Arjun Singh has been appointed as the Lt. Governor of New Delhi replacing Romesh Bhandari. Bhandari was posted as Lt. Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands but he refused to accept the offer.

A ministry spokesman told the Arab Times on telephone that Aviation Minister Arif Mohammed Khan is making all out efforts to improve the services of both Air India and Indian Airlines. Both the board chairman of Air-India and Indian Airlines have submitted their resignations and the replacements will be announced shortly.

Deputy chairman of Planning Commission Ramakrishna Hedge is planning to reorganise the commission and T.D. Sethi is likely to be named as a new member.

In a series of decisions, the Council of Ministers has made it obligatory on every minister, including the prime minister to furnish their assets. A cabinet committee was set up to control prices and bring the bill in the coming session of Parliament. A



Arif Mohammed Khan

ministry spokesman said the ministers would be required to declare assets of their spouses and dependent children as well. The President of India R. Venkataraman has summoned the ninth Lok Sabha on December 18. According to a Lok Sabha secretariat press release, the session is likely to continue till December 29. The release said summons were being issued to the newly elected members to attend the session.

India's Deputy Prime Minister, Devi Lal told a press conference in New Delhi that finding solutions to economic problems facing the country was more important than going into the question of the Bofors deal.

When newsmen persisted on questioning him on Bofors, Lal said the law will take its course.

"The deal was not so much important to the people. As was evident from the election results from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. He also admitted in reply to a question that efforts had not been given up to seek BIP's participation in the cabinet. He said the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana as political gimmicks and said the government may have to do some rethinking on its implementation.

The Urban Development Minister Murali Manan said the scheme to provide employment in urban areas will not be scrapped. He said the government will recast the scheme to ensure that the benefits percolate to the beneficiaries directly, removing intermediaries. The minister said the central government will give priority to employment generation programmes in urban areas.

Devi Lal said, he stood by his promise to the electorate for the reorganisation of states to farmers up to a ceiling of Rs10,000. A committee was set up under the finance minister to go into the

matter.

A proposal to guarantee employment to one person in each family under the reservation policy, will be submitted to the central cabinet shortly. The deputy prime minister said the constitution will be suitably amended to guarantee employment to one person from each family under the policy, which will continue for 10 years.

According to official sources, Industry Minister Ajit Singh has said that modernisation in industry must be continued, thereby saying that the process of liberalisation will not be reversed. Singh added: "My first priority will be to strengthen the industrial growth and investment. In a briefing session with his officers, the minister made it clear that generating the employment was a priority in his industrial development strategy. He said the race of small scale sector and the imperative need for technological upgradation, quality improvement and marketing support. The minister was equally keen about the commercialisation of indigenous technology along with technology absorption.

## BA, KLM to buy 20 pc stakes in Sabena

LONDON, Dec 13, (AP): British Airways Plc and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines each plan to buy a 20 per cent stake in a newly formed Sabena World Airways for \$55 million, the British Airways announced today.

The other 60 per cent of the new airline will be held by parent company Sabena SA, which is controlled by the Belgian government, British Airways said.

The new airline, formed after nearly six months of negotiations, is scheduled to start operations at the beginning of next year, extending Sabena's present route network with a "hub and spoke" system centered on Brussels' Zaventem Airport, British Airways said.

British Airways' stake cost \$34 million (\$55 million) while KLM confirmed that its holding cost 107 million Dutch guilders (\$55 million).

The British carrier said the new Sabena airline is expected to exploit opportunities emerging from the progressive liberalisation of European air transport.

This will include intercontinental routes such as linking Brussels with Manchester in Britain for some services to North America and the Far East and linking Brussels with Amsterdam for some services to Africa and south America, it said.

In terms of revenue passenger kilometres, the new company is expected to treble Sabena's current size in six years time, British Airways said.

Last year, Sabena reported 1.2 billion revenue passenger kilometres, ranking it 16th among European airlines, according to the association of European airlines.

British Airways ranked first, and KLM ninth by that measure, which is the number of kilometres airlines fly fare-paying passengers.

The board of Sabena world will have 10 members with six coming from Sabena and two from each British Airways and KLM.

Lowest level since '84 in 3rd quarter

## US foreign trade deficit shrinks

WASHINGTON, Dec 13, (AP): The deficit in the broadest measure of US foreign trade shrank to \$22.69 billion in the July-September quarter, giving the country its lowest trade imbalance since early 1984, the government reported today.

The Commerce Department said the current account deficit shrank a dramatic 29 per cent from a second quarter deficit of \$32.08 billion as the category covering income on US investments abroad surged upward.

The current account, also known as the country's balance of payments, is the most important trade statistic because it measures not only trade in merchandise but trade in services, a category which records the income foreigners earn on their overseas investments and the income foreigners earn on their investments in the United States.

For the third quarter, the services category registered a surplus of \$8.72 billion, reflecting a decline in the value of the dollar during the three-month period. A weaker dollar means that the profits US companies earn in foreign currencies are worth more when they are translated back into dollars.

A rising dollar during the April-June quarter was blamed for depressing investment earnings in the second quarter, when the country registered a \$1.66 billion deficit in the services category, its first services deficit in 30 years.

Private economists, however, cautioned that the big swing of the services category back into surplus was likely to be only temporary. Many analysts believe that the services category will be in deficit throughout the 1990s, reflecting the fact that the United States is now the world's largest debtor nation.

Simply put, that means that foreigners now own more in US assets than Americans own overseas. America's net debtor position stood at \$32.5 billion at the end of last year and is expected to worsen by another \$100 billion this year.

Many economists are predicting that US living standards will begin declining because financing the growing foreign debt burden will mean less funds are available for productive investment in this country.

Through the first nine months of this year, the current account deficit was running at an annual rate of \$113.55 billion, down modestly from the 126.55 billion deficit recorded in 1988. The \$22.69 billion third quarter imbalance was the lowest since a 20.9 billion deficit in the first quarter of 1984.

It occurred even though the merchandise deficit rose a slight 0.7 per cent during the quarter to \$27.75 billion, up from \$27.55 billion in the second quarter.

## WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Dec 13, (Reuters): Prices managed only slight gains in quiet trading as the market largely ignored a strong lead from Wall Street. The All Ordinaries index closed 2.5 higher at 1,615.2.

TOKYO: Prices climbed to new highs buoyed by foreign investment buying on the Nikkei index, which pierced the 36,000 mark. It closed up 258.89 at 38,062.42.

HONG KONG: Active local and foreign buying pushed the Hang Seng index to its highest since China's June 4 crackdown on pro-democracy protesters. The index gained 42.26 to 2,851.84.

SINGAPORE: The market closed

firm after sustained buying by institutions in brisk trading. The Straits Times industrial index rose 9.48 to a post-1987 cash high of 1,464.29.

BOMBAY: Widespread profit-taking led by institutional investors halted soaring shares for the first time in two weeks and brought prices broadly down, brokers said. The exchange index fell 31.76 points to 761.23.

ZURICH: Shares closed lower across the board as the market recovered only slightly from a wave of selling after the National Bank said it was tightening its Lombard rate facility. The performance index fell 11.6 points to close at 1,124.7.

## UAL tops the merit list

NEW YORK, Dec 13, (UPI): UAL Corp., the parent company of United Airlines with annual revenues of over \$9 billion, tops the list of the world's 50 largest airline companies, the monthly business magazine Fortune said today.


Fortune, in its January issue to be available on newsstands today said six US airline companies are among the 10 leaders listed by revenues, and Japan Air Lines ranks fourth world-wide and first among foreign carriers with revenues of \$7.25 billion.

Fortune's January issue includes a survey of the industry with major airlines ranked according to their 1988 revenues, and a forecast on the changing outlook for air carriers in 1990s, following the turmoil triggered by a tidal wave of takeover attempts.

"The airlines are in a state of continuous turmoil... each day brings another slash and thrust as riders and managers struggle for control," Fortune said.

Ranking second among the main carriers is AMR Corp. of Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, the parent of American Airlines, with 1988 revenues of \$8.3 billion and 64.8 billion passenger-miles carried, compared with 69.1 billion passenger-miles for UAL of Chicago.

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## Dollar edges up

LONDON, Dec 13, (Reuters): The dollar ended a shade firmer in Europe today, sinking to its lowest against the West German mark for more than 1-1/2 years.

Dealers said the mark was likely to remain in demand in the near to medium term, supported by firm West German interest rates and the expectation they would stay high.

The mark has shot up as faith in the robust West German economy hardened after East Germany opened its borders on Nov 9. Dealers said the market's movements were exaggerated by the low volumes being traded towards the end of the year.

The dollar traded as low as 1.7005 marks towards the end of Asian trading, its worst since May 1988. "We were all a bit shell-shocked when we came in this morning," said Peter Medlock, chief dealer at Societe Generale in London.

Dealers said the dollar could fall below 1.70 marks before the end of the year, with little chance the West German central bank, the Bundesbank, would intervene to support the US currency unless it slide got out of hand.

"The Bundesbank will not buy dollars unless the dollar gets down to 1.65 marks," said one dealer in Frankfurt.

A firm mark will make West German imports cheaper, helping the central bank contain inflationary pressures, dealers said. "The Bundesbank has wanted a strong mark for a long time," said Richard Passow, a trader with Bank Fuer Gemeinwirtschaft. "Now they are getting it."

The dollar closed in London at 1.7405 marks and 143.93 Japanese yen after ending Tuesday at 1.7345 and 143.85. Dealers said an overnight rally on Wall Street had also helped the Financial Times-Stock Exchange index of 100 leading shares to close 22.7 points higher at 2,386.2.

Gold closed lower in London at \$411.75 an ounce after \$417.25 yesterday. In London, share prices were off the day's highs in quiet afternoon business after gains this morning on a stock shortage.

"There aren't many sellers. As the market started to quieten down after a busy morning session the professionals took the chance to mark a few prices down," one trader said.

"If Wall Street ends higher tonight then we'll open stronger tomorrow morning," he added.

Another commented, "they just marked it away far too quickly. It had to come off the early highs."

Dealers said oil shares gained on a report yesterday from the American Petroleum Institute which noted a decline in US oil stocks last week.

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## Editor's Note

WESTERN women who have sought and achieved happiness with their Kuwaiti husbands have followed different paths to their marital bliss. While some have managed to carve a niche for themselves in their new environment without substantially changing their lifestyle and habits others have sought to get fully integrated into the fabric of the Kuwaiti society. They have wholeheartedly embraced Islam and have gone all the way to become accepted by their Kuwaiti in-laws.

Interviewed by the Arab Times more than a dozen Western women, belonging to both groups, speak of the difficulties they have come across in adapting to married life in Kuwait and the ways to overcome them.

## Some find a key

By Jadranka Porter  
Arab Times staff

Many are happy

## 'Love doesn't have to stop'

By Diana Abon Haidar  
Arab Times staff

DESPITE difficulties they face in adapting to a different culture some American women married to Kuwaitis claim they have found their niche of happiness in this country.

They give credit to their supportive husbands who they say have helped them adapt.

"There is this image of our marriages being horrible and our husbands being difficult," says Sandra, an American wife of a Kuwaiti engineer, who has 10 years of a happy married life behind her. "Well, let me tell you, these guys are pretty open-minded despite a lot of pressures on them. They are special, they are not your average guy on the street," she stresses.

As in other successful marriages these couples have over the years strengthened the bond they forged back in the US, and found a way to accommodate their over-protective Kuwaiti families. Adding to the wives' security are arrangements they are making, many of them with their husbands, for their own and their children's protection in case of divorce or widowhood.

"While making efforts to blend into their new environment they have sought to retain their identity and some of the habits they grew with back home. To ease the strain of the initial cultural shock and the painful aspects of the adaptation process they have maintained links with Westerners with whom they share some of their experiences."

**Insecurity**

Speaking about the challenges they have encountered they single out Kuwaiti laws as the single most important source of their insecurity in Kuwait.

"No matter what you do, it is just so far you can go with the law here and there is only so much you can get out of it," says Sally, wife of a Kuwaiti businessman with whom she has a two-year-old daughter.

Reassuring that they are happy they claim that part of their contentment is due to steps they have taken to guard against any unforeseen and unwelcome developments the future can bring.

The women know they would be vulnerable if they get divorced or widowed. Although as non-Kuwaitis they cannot own property many have converted to Islam since as Muslims they could have custody of children and be entitled to a portion of inheritance. Some admit that the possibility of a divorce and a wrangle over custody of the children is always at the back of their mind. They concede that, if their marriages crumbled, they would do whatever it takes to get out of Kuwait with their children.

"If my marriage was on the rocks I would kiss his feet. I would be an angel until the next vacation time. Then I'll tell him. Oh honey I have to take the baby home to see mum and dad and I would just get the hell out of here. And I wouldn't go home either. My parents would not know where to find me. I'll get lost for a long time," said Sally with bravado.

But, as another American native, pointed out it would take quite an actress to pull off a plan like this.

"I would like to believe that I could do it," she says.

"You have to get out when the going is good," advises Sally. Concerns about custody are amplified by worries about their and their children's material wellbeing in case of divorce or husband's death.

## Claims

The women are particularly moved by the case of one of their compatriots, a widow whose Kuwaiti father-in-law got legal guardianship of her three children. Her late husband had a heart attack just before he finished their new home. The building was completed by the father-in-law who also claims an exorbitant amount of money he contends the widow is now collecting the relevant papers to stop her father-in-law's claim which, if approved, could wipe out her

"INTER-CULTURAL marriages may have more risks and may cause more pain when they fail, but they also have greater rewards when they succeed", claims Teresa, an American married to an Egyptian.

Teresa is one of many foreign women who are "happily married" to Arab men. They wanted to offer other intercultural couples the benefits of their experiences and share with them the secrets of successful relationships.

Teresa, who converted to Islam the same day she was married nine years ago, says that good communication between husband and wife is crucial. She also believes that spouses must respect one another, their different upbringing, family habits, feelings and expectations. Each one of them should have the ability to admit that the other's way is sometimes better, and the tolerance to overlook minor differences.

Fatima (not her real name) agrees. She is American and her husband is Kuwaiti. They have been married for eight years. "I think the key qualities that make our marriage work are acceptance, patience, understanding and willingness to change on the part of both myself and my husband," Fatima says. She explains that all this takes time. "I've been here four years and I am just developing true love for my in-laws," she adds.

Teresa, also an American married to Kuwaiti says that the adaptation period in their marriage was five to six years long. She describes inter-cultural marriages as challenges that have both positive and negative aspects. She explains that the experience of living with in-laws could be very rewarding when the wife is sick for example. They will gladly take care of the husband and the children and a strong natural bond develops between them. But raising children with their grandparents around could prove to be a difficult task sometimes, Terri adds.

Elaine, British, married to a Kuwaiti, lived with her in-laws when she was first married. She says it was difficult at that time, but now when she looks back at it, she finds that it was extremely helpful in introducing her to the Kuwaiti culture. "I learned all the little things that would make my life easier, such as ironing my husband's dishdashas, cooking Kuwaiti food and serving tea to guests," she said.

Anna (not her real name), an American divorced twice from Kuwaitis and now happily married to a third, is impressed with the support she received from the Kuwaiti society through her first two ordeals. She says the court and legal systems in Kuwait were much better to deal with than those in her country. When her second husband divorced her and her in-laws asked her to leave the house 40 days after she had her baby, friends took her in and gave her money. "As a sister in Islam, I received help from Beit Al Zakat and the Ministry of Awaqaf," she adds.

"Partners in mixed marriages can learn new customs, a second language, and a different way of thinking. They can choose the best of both cultures and make a dynamic couple. When two different cultures mix through marriage, emotional, legal and communal ties are formed," Teresa says.

"My advice to two people thinking of joining their lives together in an inter-cultural marriage, is for each of them to ask himself or herself: Am I willing to sacrifice, change, accept and be patient? The loving does not have to stop if these vital elements are planted in the marriage," Fatima says.

inheritance. She has hired four lawyers in a continuing legal battle which centres on gaining custody of her children and financial support for them.

As divorcees, women in Kuwait are not entitled to any property jointly acquired during marriage and receive only a three-month alimony. This does little to comfort American wives. Few, if any, have signed a pre-nuptial contract, which Kuwaiti women do without fail. The contract specifies the amount of money the husband is to hand to his wife in the event of divorce. Unlike the Kuwaiti wives, they have not invested in gold either.

As they discuss the histories of the women that have been hard done by they admit to making arrangements, either on their own or with their husbands, that would add to their financial security.

"My husband gives me 10 dinars here and 10 dinars there," says Sally, a secretary in her late 20s. "I pay the maid, I buy the groceries and things for the house. I work on a schedule - I give what I want for a period of time and then I send my salary to the States," she explains.

The women are quick to point out that they are not wealthy contrary to the rumours in the expatriate community.

"There is this illusion about us being wealthy. Nobody is poor but nobody is super-wealthy that I know of," says Sally. The cost of living in Kuwait is higher than in the States and you cannot buy on credit as is the American custom, they say. Barbara had to wait for two years before she could buy a car and Sally and her husband had saved for two years before they had enough to furnish their flat.

Sandra says her husband's expatriate colleagues earn twice or three times as much as he does.

But finances are usually less of a nagging problem than family pressures.

Interaction with their in-laws offers the first-hand experience of cultural differences in which the independent American wives have to adjust to their in-laws who rely on interdependence of family members.

"They are always dependent on somebody for something. Dependence is the relationship, it gives them the control," said Barbara. Summarising hers and some of her friends' experience one American woman said of their in-laws:

"You are never just right for them. You give them an inch they will take a mile. It is their way or no way. And you have to keep your mouth shut about many things."

They also resent lack of privacy, interference concerning their children, dress and lifestyle in general. Many of the wives have found that their husbands are biased mediators in disputes between them and their in-laws.

Sandra enjoys the company of the older members in her husband's family and has patched up differences with the younger ones who, she believes, are overly concerned with appearances, money and status. What they miss in their relations with their in-laws they compensate with contacts they maintain with fellow-Americans. "Thank God that we have each other," says Sandra. "I need that Western contact."

The mention of polygamy, that so irks Western women, elicits laughter rather than consternation.

## Editor's Note

'I want my children back'  
Private hell of Mezo

By Jadranka Porter  
Arab Times staff

NOTHING short of getting her children back can alleviate the pain and anger of Barbara Mezo, a 36-year-old American social worker, who is fighting her Egyptian husband for custody of their two children.

Their case includes the most poignant elements of a broken marriage drama and a desperate effort to win custody rights in two countries where cultural and legal traditions are so different. In her marriage Barbara claims she was verbally and physically abused and was distressed to see her husband strike their little son.

After their separation he kidnapped their children from Brooklyn, New York to Cairo, in defiance of an American court order, hiding them from her for 16 months.

A court in Cairo is now examining her character to determine whether she is fit to be the mother of Muslim children, she is not allowed to be alone with her children and she does not even know where they live.

Desperate and running out of money, Barbara is facing yet another obstacle. She was asked by an Egyptian judge to bring by Dec 12 two witnesses from the US to testify about her character.

"Where is the justice," cries Barbara in exasperation.

"How can they ask me to bring witnesses from the US. I am not a millionaire. I want my children. They are my children. I am not allowed to be the mother. I don't even know where my children live."

"My husband has committed a crime and I pay the damages. I don't see any fairness in that," Barbara told the Arab Times in a telephone interview.

But she refused to be discouraged. After a 19-month-long fierce fight to get her children back she still insists that she is not going to end up a loser.

Yet, she admits that she has no idea as to what the future holds. "How long can I stick it out? How long can I stay in Cairo without a job? When will the generosity of others come to an end? When will she see her children again? To all these questions she has one answer: "Only God knows." And she adds with fatalism but also a measure of determination: "Everyone has their private hell they must go through."

Barbara says she began back in 1983, two years after she married an Egyptian, Abdul Aziz Mergawi. At the time, she was a 31-year-old, single mother, and when her first born, Mohammed, was six months old.

Her husband, she says, fell into the habit of insulting and belittling her. Her agony intensified when, according to her, he began venting his rage on their son striking and kicking him. She believes today that the blows the child received were meant for her. "It was a vindictive act against me," she says.

Bruised and depressed she hoped against the hope that things would get better.

"The last thing I wanted was to be a divorced mother," she recalls. She pleaded with her husband, who was studying to become a gynaecologist, to seek medical help, but he refused. Eventually, separation was inevitable.

A New York court granted her custody of Mohammed, now aged seven, and four-year-old Leila.

But in May 1988, Al Mergawi abducted his own children and brought them to Egypt.

Ever since then Barbara says she has lived in agony.

She was penniless and could not travel to Cairo until she received public donations and family contributions. In August 1988 she landed in Cairo, a city of 14 million people, not knowing the whereabouts of her children. Her efforts to find them through the police, Ministry of Interior and

Sami, an American citizen of Arab origin, contacted the Arab Times yesterday, to talk about his own experience in being married to a foreigner.

Sami, a father of a six-year-old girl who is named Samantha, regretted the attitude and behaviour of Arab men who abduct their children from their foreign divorced wives. "An abduction, in the final analysis is a traumatic experience for the children involved and more often than not the resulting scars are carried through the rest of the adult life of these children," Sami

said.

Sami reminisced on his custody battle for his daughter and said he was devastated when the California courts granted custody of Samantha to the mother. However, he said, all was not totally lost as he was granted visitation rights three times a week to see and be with his beloved daughter.

He believes the court's decision came as a result of the media campaign against the Arabs in the US.

He admitted that his wife was influenced by such media campaigns, that Arab men married to Americans always abduct their children. "The Donahue programme shown twice a month was behind my wife's fears. It urged her to file a case against me in the court. Other reasons were cited to the judge to make her win the case and get the custody of my child," he said.

Sami added that he does not regret that



Mezo (left) accompanied by her Egyptian lawyer Medha Louxor leaves a Cairo court. (Reuters wirephoto)

local prosecutor's office failed. "I could do nothing because I didn't have a local court order," says Barbara. In September she ran out of money and returned to New York and her job as a social worker.

The first time she could claim with certainty that the children were in Cairo was at the start of this year when they were seen at the US embassy where Al Mergawi, 38, obtained American passports for them.

Since March, Barbara has been in Cairo fighting for custody of her children in court against her mother-in-law, who also appealed for custody on the ground that Barbara turned her back on Islam.

The protracted court case is exhausting her meagre funds and energy, she says.

"I have terrible time with money and there are no jobs here for people in my career," she complained.

One bright spot on the otherwise gloomy horizon are her visits to her children. But the delight of seeing her children is eclipsed by Al Mergawi's insistence that he be present.

She was saddened to see that her daughter had forgotten English and that her son Mohammed was not free to say what he wanted. "He seemed restrained, even repressed. I know my son, he was under the control of his father," Barbara said.

She is convinced that the children are suffering because they are not with their mother.

"I am not allowed to see my children in a decent way," complains Barbara. "It always has to be in a little room, we are not free to express ourselves and our meetings are not frequent enough," she says. She says her heart particularly goes out to Mohammed who she believes, is being mentally abused by his father.

"He (Al Mergawi) told my son, if Mohammed wants to be with mummy, daddy will go to jail. His father is not taking the responsibility for his actions but instead is placing it on the children making them feel guilty for wanting to be with their mother," says Barbara.

Al Mergawi brought last month the seven-year-old Mohammed to court to testify about his mother's character. Appearing for the first time in court, Al Mergawi announced he was divorcing Barbara.

The ruling on Barbara's case, largely seen as a test case, may raise or kill the hopes of other American mothers seeking to be reunited with their children.

Parental kidnapping, if committed by the father, is not a crime in Egypt. Courts normally grant custody of boys under the age of 13 and daughters under 16 to their mother. Even if Barbara wins her custody battle she will be prevented by law from taking the children out of Egypt without permission from their father.

Barbara did not understand what her son said but her lawyer Medha Louxor told the Arab Times that the child told the court he had seen his mother in bed with another man, that she had made him eat pork and had taken him to a Christian church. But he reportedly also told the judge that his father had told him to say many things. The boy's evidence was not recorded as he was under legal age.

Barbara, who converted to Islam, believes that the latest attack on her character is part of her husband's ploy to get her to drop parental abduction charges she filed against him in the US.

"He is not a devout Muslim. I am a lot better Muslim than he is. He is using religion to get his way," she said. She claims Al Mergawi's lawyer threatened her saying "you either drop the charges or else."

She believes that her husband, who remarried nine months ago, would like to move to the US with his wife and Barbara's children. The only hurdle in his way is an imminent arrest upon arrival in the US, unless Barbara drops the charges.

Barbara feels she has nowhere to turn for help. The US government can do little for her since Egypt, in common with other countries, has not signed The Hague Convention on the civil aspects of parental child abduction.

"Egypt refuses to sign the convention and this has caused me a great deal of grief," she says.

## Kids 'rescued' from mother

'Everybody is having fun'

By Jadranka Porter  
Arab Times staff

THE widely publicised story of Barbara Mezo and her Egyptian husband Dr Abdul Aziz El Mergawi is one of the latest examples of the intermarriage breakup drama that illustrates the complexity of battles for child custody.

In May 1988, two years after El Mergawi separated from Mezo who had custody rights, he went to her home in New York to take the children, Mohammed and Leila, for the weekend.

Recalls El Mergawi: "I gave her the usual weekly child support cheque, she packed a few toys for the kids and we left." Never to return again.

For Mezo that was one of the longest weekends in her life. For El Mergawi it was the weekend when he rescued his children from the mother who refused to bring them up in Muslim faith and who neglected them.

For most of the public, he it in Egypt, the US or elsewhere, it is an entertainment show, El Mergawi says. "We are two fighters in a boxing ring. Everybody is having fun, some are crying, some are laughing and some will make a profit," he said in reference to Barbara's alleged plan to sell her story in the US.

In an exclusive interview with the Arab Times El Mergawi, who is fighting the custody battle in a Cairo court spoke of the abduction and the developments that led to it.

"I had no choice but to take the children out of the US. I couldn't fight for custody in American courts because they don't take religion into consideration. I had to go to a place where they understand my religious beliefs."

It was the religious and cultural incompatibility and Barbara's casual approach towards upbringing of their children that led to the couple's separation, and later to the abduction of the children, says El Mergawi. He recently divorced her.

They met in 1979 where El Mergawi worked as a general practitioner and Barbara was studying for her BA in social science. They got married in New York mosque in 1980.

He says Barbara embraced Islam of her own free will, but her interest in Islam and the Arab culture was short-lived. "About two years after we got married she started going out with a girlfriend and began turning against my culture," claims El Mergawi.

She also began neglecting her children, he contends.

"I would come from the hospital and find a note saying, 'I have gone out and the children are with the baby-sitter,'" says El Mergawi. When he protested she allegedly threatened to call the police. On three occasions she actually did so, contends the Egyptian. "She turned the house into hell," he said. "She would talk, I would get excited and nervous. I was frustrated that she didn't understand my background. I would raise my voice, and yes, I did threaten her."

He was saying child support of \$220 a week and regularly went to see the children. He says he often found them with a baby-sitter.

"One time Leila was very sick. I arrived there to find a 12-year-old baby-sitter with the children. I was so distressed I called the police. I wanted them to be my witnesses in court. But they were not interested," said El Mergawi.

At that point anger began simmering in El Mergawi.

He says Barbara's schedule would be to come home from work at 6 pm, feed the children and then go out until 10 pm. "This went on for two years," he insists.

He was particularly stung when, he says, he found out that she was taking the children to the church.

"She knew what she was doing. She was walking all over my dignity. How can you do a thing like that to a Muslim father. It is natural that the child would follow the father's religion. What is wrong with being a Muslim. I am proud to be Muslim," the Egyptian insists.

El Mergawi claims he is not a very strict Muslim. "I am a Muslim enough. I don't hurt anybody, I don't eat pork, I never drink and I go to the mosque when I have time."

When Barbara arrived in Cairo a few months after her husband had brought the children to Egypt, El Mergawi, precluded her from seeing the children fearing that "she would take them by force." This fear is still there.

Even today she does not know where the children live, he confirms. Asked about the reason he replies evasively: "I don't know where she lives either."

El Mergawi claims the children do not miss their mother and have not inquired about her in the 16 months when they did not see her, after they were taken to Egypt.

He insists that he be present when she visits them. "What secrets does she have to share with the children that I should not know about," he asks.

He acknowledges that she is vulnerable in Egypt, a foreign country for her where she has no family or friends to support her. But he also says she has herself to blame for getting into a situation like this.

El Mergawi doubts that his former wife is as hard up as she claims. "Each week she comes to see the children with presents of clothes and toys worth 15 Egyptian pounds. I am a doctor and I cannot afford that," he says.

He accuses her of planning to make money by selling her story to media in the US.

He stressed that any Arab who wants to marry a foreigner should put in mind the gap between the two cultures.

If any one is planning to marry a foreigner, he should accept the attitude of his wife towards the raising of their children or else he should not marry her," he said.

He advised Arabs, who marry foreigners and live in the West, not to have children in the first two years of marriage. "This is to ensure that should the marriage flounder and lead to divorce, the heart-break and resenting trauma of both parties will be considerably reduced if no offspring are involved," Sami concluded.

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Encouraged by AT special report..... Sami tells his own story

## Arab men's attitude resented

By Lima Al Khalafawi  
Arab Times staff

"I READ the special report of divorce cases in the Arab Times, and being very much impressed with the depth and insight exposed, I felt encouraged to come to you with my own story," Sami (not his real name) said.

Sami, an American citizen of Arab origin, contacted the Arab Times yesterday, to talk about his own experience in being married to a foreigner.

Sami, a father of a six-year-old girl who is named Samantha, regretted the attitude and behaviour of Arab men who abduct their children from their foreign divorced wives. "An abduction, in the final analysis is a traumatic experience for the children involved and more often than not the resulting scars are carried through the rest of the adult life of these children," Sami

decision as long as he is granted the right of visitation.

Sami, who was married nine years ago, is still studying law at the San Francisco University. He said that inter-cultural marriages in the majority of cases are failure. This gap in cultural norms between the couples leads to many problems. One vital issue of disagreement among Western and Arab cultures is the "laissez faire" attitude of Western men displayed in permitting absolutely free socialising by their wives with other men as opposed to the rigid outlook in this respect by Arab men.

Speaking as a father, Sami said "consequently, I am very concerned about the future of my daughter being brought up in an open society like the US."

"The laws there encourage teenagers to act on their own without much parental supervision. This is the price of freedom parents have to pay there," Sami said.

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24/12/1989





## 'I will have an impact on the business world'

DALYA AL DAJANI is a young female in the prime of her age. She is beautiful, simple, yet smart and spontaneous. She has a strong and attractive personality and is very persuasive. Dalya is only sixteen years old but, is much mature and has more ambitions than her age can handle.

After graduating from the general secondary stage she intends to join a Business Administration College in Germany. She believes that she will become a very successful businesswoman who will have a strong impact on the business world.

With respect to the adolescent stage in which Dalya is now living, she states that her life is very normal and spontaneous. "There are no complications nor exaggerations. I live my life in accordance to family traditions and rules and within permissible limits," she said.

She chooses whatever suits her in this wild and modern world of fashion. She likes to wear youthful clothes but again, limits. Dalya also likes listening to the latest songs... she parties, visits exhibitions and sometimes participates

in different school activities. Dalya said that she does not hang pictures of singers, actors and actresses in her bedroom because she feels that she had outgrown such behaviour.

She feels that it is very natural to mix with the opposite sex and firmly believes that friendship develops individual personalities among uncomplicated and simple atmospheres.

Dalya believes that it is hard to fall in love with somebody without knowing one's feelings towards you. She always goes to her mother if she has any problems but, does not mind hearing, a close friend's advice too.

She wants to fulfill all her ambitions and dreams and feels that there are the good and bad, in both sexes. Some females take life seriously and with optimism and others are dependant and negligent.

As for males: "Some behave well and are caring some others are very reckless, and waste valuable time." What really bothers her the most is young males harassing girls in streets, markets and roads.

## TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

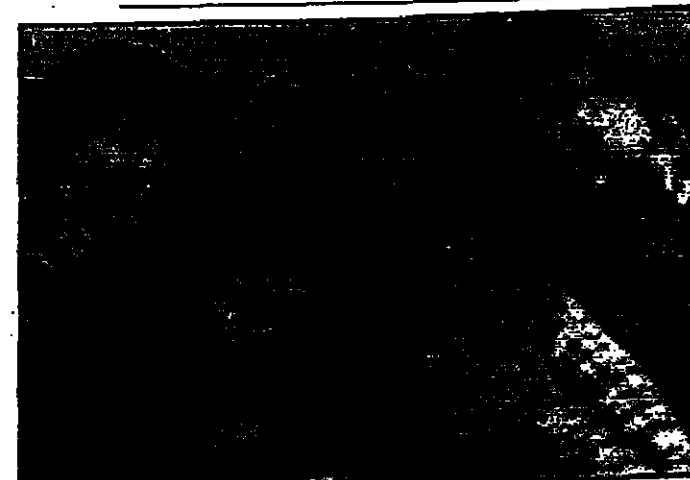
### KTV 1

- 9.00 Opening and Holy Quran
- 9.15 Sabah Al Kher, news and variety
- 9.30 Cartoons
- 10.00 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 10.25 Kopal Ri Al Masyada: Arabic serial (part 5), starring Ahmad Budair, Fuad Khalaf, Afaf Rashad, Sahar Rami
- 11.30 The Open University: Cultural Programme
- 12.00 Sabah Al Kher news and variety
- 12.15 Hwar Wa Nagham: Local variety programme, prepared by Qasem Abdul Qader
- 1.00 News summary
- 1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 1.30 Sports in a Week: Sports programme, prepared and presented by Sports Programmes Control
- 2.45 Liqa Al Ithamees: Variety programme
- 4.00 With the Students: Local programme, prepared by School Activity Department at the Ministry of Education
- 5.00 Beereen: Cartoon serial
- 5.30 Cartoons
- 5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
- 6.00 Cultural film
- 7.00 Egypt Information Message to the State of Kuwait
- 7.15 Al Forsiya: Local programme
- 8.30 Maa Al Islam: Religious programme, prepared and presented by Dr Khaled Al Mazkour
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.15 Al Manzel Al Khafi: Arabic serial (part 4)
- 10.45 Thaman Al Ghorba: Arabic feature film, starring Adel Adham, Sabreen, Raja Al Kad-

- dawi and Aziza Rashed
- 12.30 Special variety late night show
- 1.25 News summary
- 1.30 The World Today via Satellite
- 2.00 Holy Quran and Closedown

### FRIDAY

- 9.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 9.15 Cartoons
- 9.30 Sharlot Adventures: cartoon serial
- 10.00 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 10.15 Children Magazine: local children's programme
- 10.30 Al Ahadeeth Al Mawdhous: religious programme, presented by Sheikh Salah Abu Ismael
- 11.00 Live from the Grand Mosque for the Friday Prayers and Speeches
- 12.30 Alwan: variety programme, prepared by Mohammed Al Fares and presented by Fatema Abdul Wahab
- 1.00 News Summary
- 1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 1.30 The Friday Break: variety programme, prepared and presented by Varieties Programmes Control
- 3.00 Daqat Al Sas: Arabic serial (part 11)
- 4.00 Hadeeth Dinec: religious programme, presented by Sheikh Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi
- 4.45 We are Your Friends: local programme
- 5.00 Baren Team: cartoon serial
- 5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
- 6.00 Kuwait Television programmes in a week
- 6.30 Kuwait in a Week: news programme
- 7.15 The Family Programme: local programme
- 7.45 Silk Road: cultural



KTV 2, Friday 10:00 pm Roseanne.

- 8.40 Hadeeth Al Osboon: religious programme presented by Sheikh Ali Al Jassar
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Wrestling
- 10.30 Variety cultural late night show with guest poet Prince Khaled Al Fasal and Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashed Al Maktoum, prepared and presented by Mohammed Al Barjes
- 12.00 News Summary
- 12.05 The World Today via Satellite
- 12.25 Holy Quran and Closedown

### KTV 2

- 6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
- 6.10 Fantastic Max: A cartoon series for children
- 6.30 Mr Wizard's World: A variety of magic acts and illusions... training children how to use or deal with information.
- 7.00 Wild America "Swamp Bear," Part 2
- 7.30 My Secret Identity "For Old Times Sake," Scientist "Ray," a friend of "Jeff" is kidnapped before submitting his scientific achievement to a group of scientists. Dr Jeff seeks the help of Andrew!
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Murder, She Wrote "The Search for Kevry," Roger continues his 20-year search for his grandson "Kevry". The author finds a man named Richard who has lost his memory...
- 9.30 Just for the Record: The strongest bay on earth... A blind man and his sport achievements... a look at ghosts...
- 10.00 The Golden Girls
- 10.30 Feature Film "Alamo"

Ray". Starring: Ed Harris, Amy Madigan, Donald Moffet, Cynthia Carr... A Vietnamese young man, who lost his family during the Vietnamese war, meets certain difficulties from a group of white fishermen who refuse to employ foreigners.

### FRIDAY

- 6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
- 6.10 Macron 1. A cartoon series for children
- 6.30 Walt Disney Movie. "Earth-Star Voyager" Part 2. The mission is in jeopardy when the senior commander disappears and sabotage is suspected. Despite the setback the crew decides to go against the odds and continue on knowing that their chances for survival are slim...
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Breaking Away. Recreational and entertainment activities.
- 8.45 Aids: The Global Explosion
- 9.30 The Weekend Programme. A weekly local programme on variety of topics and local activities.
- 10.00 Roseanne "Cans Go Time". Misunderstanding arises between husband and wife. In the meantime Jackie strengthens her close relations with poker...
- 10.30 Supercarrier: Before Susan can take action, Sierra and Rawley close on the Russian bomber high over the ocean. Using humour, Sierra adroitly defuses the potentially explosive confrontation.
- 11.30 News in Brief
- 11.45 Magazine D'Actualite



KTV 2, Thursday 10:30 pm Alamo Bay

## Arabic Film

- Al Andalus
- Arabic film
- Sahabiyah
- Hall booked
- Al Hama
- Arabic film
- Drive-In
- Arabic film
- Al Firdous
- Garibon Ka Daata
- Fahad Open
- Closed for winter
- Fahad
- Eka Tuka Aasha
- Al Jahra
- Arabic film
- Granada
- Wild Pair
- Salaikhat
- No Dead Heroes
- Jeeb
- Jaisi Karmi Waisi Bharni
- Ahmad Drive-In
- Arabic film

## PRAYERS

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| Fajr    | 5.10 am |
| Zohr    | 11.42   |
| Asr     | 2.33 pm |
| Maghreb | 4.51    |
| Isha    | 6.14    |
| FRIDAY  |         |
| Fajr    | 5.10 am |
| Zohr    | 11.43   |
| Asr     | 2.33 pm |
| Maghreb | 4.52    |
| Isha    | 6.14    |

## NIGHT CHEMIST

- Kuwait
- Sharqiya
- Helali St.
- Al Rasheed
- Ahmad Al Jaber St.
- Hawali & Nagra
- Al Rehab
- Tunis St.
- Sahabiyah
- Heba
- Saleem Al Mubarak St.
- Fahad
- Burgan
- Souk Al Sabah
- Juleb Al Shiyyokh
- Al Salamah
- Main St.
- Jahra
- Al Nour
- Matafi St.

## WHAT'S ON

### ARTS

**Art exhibition**  
A SOLO art exhibition of Bangladeshi artist Rantu Acharye will be opened on Dec 16, at 9.00 am at the Bangladesh embassy auditorium. The exhibition will continue till Dec 21.

**Seminar**  
There will be a seminar at the DAA on "Arabic & European Art in the Light of Zodiacal Symbolism" December 10, 1989 - January 10, 1990. Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am. Anyone wishing to register for this seminar may do so at the DAA during museum hours.

### SOCIAL

**Adnan Butt**  
PAKISTAN Arts Circle will present Adnan Butt on Friday, December 15, 1989 at 6.30 pm, at Ramada Al Salam Hotel. Adnan Butt will sing his best Punjabi songs, ghazals and geets.

Zahid Saeed Khan, the ambassador of Pakistan will preside over the function. Or Riaz Ahmad Mahesar, will be the chief guest.

Invitation cards are available at the Pakistan embassy counter or with the public relations secretary (Tel. 4716258), Hamid Mahmood.

**Kuwait Singers**  
"AT this time of Year" is the theme of the Kuwait Singers annual seasonal concert which will be held on Wednesday, December 13 and Thursday, December 14 at 7.30 pm at the Gulf English School, Salwa. For ticket reservations contact 5384873 or 5382551.

**Pongal celebrations**  
BHARATHI Kalai Mandram is organising Pongal Celebrations on 29th December in the Indian Arts Circle auditorium with a variety of entertainments for children and adults from 5 to 8.30 pm. All are welcome. For details and entry passes please contact 3716976, 3718935, 5631230 or 5627718.

### British council

**Yogi's first Christmas**  
Wednesday, 13 December at 6.00 pm; Thursday, 14 December at 10.30 am. 99 min.

Yogi and his little pal, Boo-Hoo, are usually hibernating during the Christmas season at Jellystone Lodge. But this year, they are awakened when Yogi's special friends gather together to help him celebrate his first Christmas. This is a happy event that you will remember for years to come.

**Study in Britain**  
ARE you interested in studying AUTOMOBILE or AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING in Britain?

If you are then come and visit the British Council Education Office on 16 & 17 December, for information and advice about the many different courses that are available.

**NRI General Body Meeting**  
NRI Investors Forum holding annual G.B. meeting at Indian embassy on December 15 at 11.00 am. Investment speakers specially invited from India. Also presentation of NRI of the Year trophy. Followed by complimentary lunch for members.

**Konkani Drama**  
THE New Goans Overseas Association are pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Soussarant Astana Diat" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funtatees) on the 16th of February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, C. D'Silva, Betty Naz, Junior Rod, Rosario Dias. Plans open in early January.

**People's Trust Club**  
DEC 29: People's Trust Club welcomes you to a day of your life at Ramada Al Salam (Marriott) Hotel, New Ballroom from 10.30 am onwards. Nimble feet, hungry palate, perfect blend of music and style. A get-together with buffet. Featuring Stepping Stones, Top Ranks, Perfect Strangers. There will be novelties and surprises galore.

### Kalpak's drama competition

Kerala Arts and Literature Promoting Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) is organising a Malayalam drama competition on 8th and 9th of February 1990.

One act plays of 40 minutes duration will only be considered for the competition. Prizes will be awarded for best drama, best script (only for amateur creations from Kuwait) best direction. Stage setting, best actor (Prem Nazir award) best actress & best child artist, from the selected entries. Interested parties may send their applications along with a copy of the script to Varghese Paradayil, P.O. Box 47, 13001 Safat Kuwait.

For more details pls contact Varghese 5635481. Kurien 5658072 or Balakrishnan 4316737.

**Punjabi Adabi**  
THE monthly meeting of Punjabi Adabi Sangat will be held on Dec 14, Thursday at 8.00 pm at the residence of Jagdish Singh Arora in Abbasiya. Kidar Nath Kidar and Gurbaksh Singh Dogra will present their short story and poem respectively for criticism. Before recitation of poetry by the participating poets an introduction of renowned Punjabi poet Piar Singh Sekhri's new book will be presented by Jasbir Singh Dhiwan.

**Kuwait Cultural Centre**  
NEW courses at the cultural centre: yoga healing classes, two sessions in the evenings on Tuesdays and Thursdays; jujitsu (martial arts), Saturday and Mondays, pm; Chinese cooking classes, Saturdays, 9-11 am. For details call 5624393.

**Skyline Nite**  
SKYLINE Institute of Boodai Aviation will celebrate Nite on December 14, 8.00 pm at SAS Hotel (Tent). Nite will have lots of fun, music, variety of entertainment and lucky draws....

To avoid disappointment, please call for your early booking on Tel. 2412308-2408667 Housni Al Samadi

### Cultural function

ON the occasion of Victory Day of Bangladesh, a cultural function will be organised by the Bangladesh Association on Friday, Dec 22, at 6.00 pm at the Sharq Co-operative auditorium. All Bangladeshis are invited to the programme.

**Victory Day flag hoisting**  
A flag-hoisting ceremony will be held on Dec 16, Saturday at 9.00 am to observe the Victory Day of Bangladesh. The ceremony will be held at the Bangladesh Embassy premises: House No. 3, Block 1, Street 14, Khaldiya. All Bangladeshis are requested to attend.

**Southerners**  
DEC 22: Southerners invite their members and guests to celebrate X'mas family get-together at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel (the new Al Mirage Ballroom) to the excellent music by Top Ranks and Mr Leo's Magic Show. Santa Claus will be distributing gifts to all kids and other attractive gifts to prize winners. Fun and entertainment for entire family starting from 10am on December 22, 1989. For passes contact Ligory on 2425705 or 2412444.

**IAC Children's Competition**  
THE dates of finals of the Children's Competition will take place at IAC Funtatees on 13th, 14th, 15th, 27th and 28th December '89 and 18th January '90 respectively. For more details contact Indian Schools.

**X'mas tree '89**  
CHRISTMAS is for children, and what better way than to celebrate it with the New Goans Overseas Association at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel (the new Al-Mirage Ballroom) on the 15th of December 1989. Highlights include 'carol singing competition' (4 local schools participating) games for children, novelty dance and music by the Stepping Stones. Santa Claus will be distributing gifts to all the kids. For reservations contact Anthony on tel. 5621968 (after 6.00 pm) or Julio.

### Kuwait Little Theatre

KUWAIT Little Theatre, Ahmad, proudly present their traditional pantomime extravaganza - Sinbad the Sailor. Tickets are now on sale for the following performances: Evening performances on 6th and 13th Dec at 7 pm, Matinee performances on 7th, 8th, 14th and 15th Dec at 2 and 5 pm. Ring 3919759 now to avoid disappointment.

**KOSA meeting**  
KOSA Annual General Meeting - 17 December 7.30 pm Shaab Marina. All members should attend to elect the 1990 committee. For further details please call the KOSA Secretary Declan Mannion on 2452880.

**Music Night**  
MUSIC Night at "The Longhouse Traveller." A musical evening in a cafe atmosphere featuring performers from the Kuwait Folk Group performing British traditional music, folk, pop and country songs. The evening is being produced by ACT and will provide you with a unique night out. It is being held December 17th at 8.00 pm at the Holiday Inn. For more details, call 5620332 from 5.00 to 7.00 pm.

**Musical evening**  
"UPSANA" one of the leading musical groups is conducting their 6th musical programme on Friday, December 22 at 5.30 pm at Funtatees. The programme contains most of the latest hit songs from Hindi, Tamil and Malayalam. For entry passes please contact Tel. 3987249/3986956/398739-6/5643643/ 5638762/4315374/ 4314018.

**AWL Annual Bazaar**  
THURSDAY December 14, 9.00 am - 6.00 pm: Beautiful handmade items will be on sale at the Regency Palace Hotel. Ideal for Christmas shopping. **Canadian Women's League XMAS PARTY:** will be held on Friday December 15 from 4 pm to 7 pm in Jahriya. For information or maps call: 5315655 or 2563025.

### Variety Show

UPKAR is a newly formed non-profit cultural group of Hindi/Urdu speaking expatriates in Kuwait. Upkar, whose aim is to promote art, culture and literature is going to hold an inaugural variety entertainment programme at Al Sharq Co-operative Auditorium comprising of dances, dramas, musical items and pantomimes on December 15 at 6.00 pm. This will be followed by a buffet dinner. Interested persons may contact 4880965 or 2615515.

**Vishal Musical Group**  
VISHAL Musical Group is conducting their 2nd musical programme on Friday, January 5 at 6.00 pm at Funtatees Indian Arts Circle. The programme contains the most popular old and new hit songs from Hindi films. Also classical and fast dances by young talented artists. Centres for distribution of passes will be announced shortly.

**X'mas tree**  
DEC 15: Flying Arrows Sporting Centre once again invites their members and guests to their annual X'mas tree function, to be held at the Carlton Tower Hotel from 11.30am onwards. Assumptious buffet, gifts galore, exciting games and live music by the "Neighbuzz" awaits one and all. Added attraction, Leo the Magician is to perform at 12.00pm sharp.

**Kuwait Goans**  
DEC 15: Annual children's X'mas tree function will be held at the Messiah Beach Hotel on Friday, Dec 15, '89 from 9.30 am onwards. Lots of prizes and surprises awaits for one and all. Top Ranks in attendance. Crib competition will be judged by Santa Claus specially flown from London.

To avoid disappointment call for your early bookings on 2413348.

**Kuwait Welsh Society**  
A CHRISTMAS party will be held on December 28, 1989 at 8 pm. For details ring 3721383 or 3713467.

### United Goans Centre

SANTA Claus is coming to town on December 15 at the Al Salam Hotel in the Al Deira Hall exactly at 9.30 am, with loads of gifts and sweets for all your children. Make your presence at the United Goans Centre's X'mas party. A unique fancy dress parade for children and lots of surprises awaits the young and the old. Lively music from the "Next of Kin." For further information contact Tony 2612024 or Moses 2424293.

**Kuwait Nomads R.F.C**  
THE Kuwait Nomads Annual Xmas Dinner will be held on Thursday, December 21 at 7.30 pm. For more information contact: S. Hill on 5391720, R. Houston on 5658435 or G. Adams on 5644533.

**Meeting**  
A MEETING on the secret of the Prophet (PBUH) will be held today Thursday December 14 at 7.30 pm at the premises of Kuwait Teachers Society, Dasmah (opposite Mansouriah petrol station near Al Arabi club). The meeting will be addressed by two renowned scholars currently visiting Kuwait under an invitation extended by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

**Goodbye 1989**  
SUPER Top Ranks present the most fabulous show of the year: Goodbye 1989. The programme includes glamorous dance performances from Hindi, English, Punjabi and Arabic. Popular dance "Ghazal-Neh-Kiya-Ha-Ishara from Trividy by Valencia Rose Bud Tanaka and Group and the most popular pop band Ajeen, will give performances, especially for the Arab audience. The show will be on December 29 from 4 pm onwards. All are welcome at the Doha Entertainment City's Starlight Theatre. Entry to city is free. For more info: Kalid Fawzi on 4879453, Tennakoon on 4319864 and Valencia Rose Bud 5615291.

### Saaz Aur Aawaz

FEB 2: Saaz Aur Aawaz, one of the leading Indian musical groups of Kuwait present their fourth musical programme entitled Bhule Bisle Geet. The show includes Hindi film songs at the Indian Arts Circle, Funtatees on February 2, 1990. Passes will be available shortly.

**Fantasy on Fabrics**  
BARKHA presents Fantasy on Fabrics, an exhibition and sale of block printed and embroidered outfits in cool and vibrant colours. The exhibition will be on Thursday and Friday, Dec 14 and 15, 10.00 - 8.00 pm. For more info contact 5726876.

### SPORTS

#### Victory day cricket match

ON occasion of the Victory Day of Bangladesh, an exhibition cricket match will be played between the Brothers Club (red) and the Brothers (green) at the EPI cricket grounds on Friday, December 15. The match will start at 9.00 am. Other attractions include food stalls. All Bangladeshis are cordially invited. For food coupons contact Kamal on Tel. 4312949.

**AHMADI Kart Race**  
AHMADI Kart Race meeting commences 1.30 pm Friday and includes a ladies' race. All are welcome. Entrance 500 fils only. Try out the new Rentakart full blown racing kart. **IAC table tennis**

THE IAC table tennis tournament from Dec 29 till Jan 5. All members, their families and guests interested in participating please call IAC (Tel. 3904817) after 7 pm, or Jagdish at Tel. 2433552, or Sharma at Tel. 2644863 for entry passes and details.

**Football Tournament**  
PEOPLE'S Trust Club tie-breaker football tournament for all Indian teams to commemorate Jawaharlal Nehru Centenary year on 15th Dec. on Sour Ground at 8.30 am. Contact Domic Rodriguez and Camilo.



کراچی / من الہی

Women activists dissatisfied with Pak premier's approach

# Benazir kowtowing to country's religious right

ISLAMABAD, (AP) The Muslim world's only female national leader gained exposure to liberal influences while studying at Western schools, but she still covers her head in public and never shakes hands with men.

Pakistani women's rights activists claim that in her first year in power, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is kowtowing to the country's small but powerful religious right. But the prime minister's supporters say she must move cautiously to prevent a backlash that could derail efforts to bring changes to Pakistan and to the status of women.

The ascent to power late last year of her populist Pakistan People's Party raised women's hopes for equality in this male-dominated, Muslim nation of 109 million people. Some women's rights advocates now assert those hopes have sunk into frustration—and even fear.

"At the beginning we felt there was so much to look forward to," said Najma Seddique, a feminist and human rights activist. "It's very sad. She's got strength she's not using. She's playing by the traditionalists' rules."

Amna Piracha, a lawyer and member of

Benazir's party, acknowledged the frustrations facing Pakistan's women's rights activists, but said "expectations were unrealistic."

The 36-year-old prime minister, educated at Radcliffe College of Harvard University and at Oxford, conceals any hint of her sex under an expensive tent dress and blanket-like shawl.

Her mother and an aunt arranged her 1987 marriage to one of Pakistan's leading industrialists, Asif Zardari. She claims to have never seen Zardari before a pre-engagement family meeting, in line with orthodox Islamic tradition.

"Benazir Bhutto is trying to be more Islamic than the mullahs (Muslim clerics), but you can't be," insisted Sameena Ahmed, a long-time member of one of Pakistan's women's rights groups. "It's not just disappointment. We're scared."

But Piracha said that the ruling left-of-center party, hampered by inexperience and a hostile opposition, must move cautiously or risk having "the mullahs out marching."

"The longer she stays, the more she consolidates and then she has something to

offer," Piracha said. The political alternative is a right-wing alliance of conservative and fundamentalist religious parties, she said.

Hard-line Pakistani Muslims denounce a woman leader as repugnant to their religious beliefs.

Activist Ahmed said that no matter what concessions Benazir makes, the fundamentalists will never concede that she has a right to rule.

"What are they going to give her? Not support," she said.

Feminists acknowledge that achieving equal rights for women means debunking some age-old traditions.

"Women can be battered, sold, married off against their will. And if they are found in the company of a man who isn't their husband or relative, they can be killed," Seddique said. "They only have to be accused."

Rape victims in Pakistan seldom make charges out of fear of becoming the accused, charged with willingly having illicit sex, which is punishable by stoning to death.

To disprove the charge a woman needs to find four men to testify that she was sexually

assaulted, or get the rapist to confess. A woman's testimony, even the victim's, doesn't count.

Nahida Mahboob Elahi, president of a women lawyers' group, told of a 16-year-old girl who was beaten and raped, then charged with willingly having sex. She spent two years in jail and gave birth to the rapist's child.

"Until today nothing is done, we are very worried," Elahi said.

Nevertheless, even Benazir critics admit that subtle changes have occurred in Pakistan during the past year.

More women are seen driving; somewhat fewer cover their heads. Dancing and singing are making a comeback on television.

A couple was seen holding hands recently at a shopping centre in Islamabad, a sight that would have attracted police attention a year earlier. If they couldn't produce a marriage certificate they could have been jailed.

Women still languish in prisons charged under Islamic laws enacted by the late military strongman, President Gen Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq.

Before he died in a plane crash in August

1988, Zia launched a programme he called "Islamization," inextricably linking state and religion.

"Under Zia, women were officially made second-class citizens," Seddique said.

Pakistan's Women's Affairs Minister, Rehana Sarwar, said she discovered a woman jailed with her three children because her family opposed her marriage. Her husband was imprisoned elsewhere.

"The law is very harsh and unjust," she said.

A prominent Pakistani social worker, Ansar Burney, said more than 50 per cent of an estimated 4,000 female prisoners have been jailed on charges of willingly having illicit sex.

The charges are known as "Zina" charges. "Men who want to keep their women locked up while they are away charge them with zina," Burney said. "Or a man who divorces a woman, but doesn't want her to remarry, will lay a charge against her. Even families who oppose a marriage may press charges."

Benazir says the government has taken steps to help women by providing legal aid

and forming committees to monitor the conditions of those in jail.

The prime minister cannot repeal Pakistan's discriminatory laws alone. She needs the support of a rancorous political opposition for a two-thirds vote in the Senate, where the right-wing Islamic Democratic Alliance dominates.

Piracha said the government is committed to repealing these laws but that it's treading lightly to avoid inciting a hostile opposition.

"The political situation is very volatile," she said. "The opposition is daily planning to destabilize this government."

Women's rights activists claim Benazir is making dangerous concessions to Pakistan's religious right.

The prime minister has offered to reintroduce a sweeping law that would effectively make all of Pakistan's legislation subject to Islamic interpretation. It caused women to riot when Zia first introduced it but he died before it could be ratified.

"The only way to undercut the power of the mullahs is by putting them back in the mosques," Ahmed said.

## Treasure of laughs

### Raking in money

By Shann Seekins

GHOST CHASE has a couple of young film-maker partners, Warren McCloud (Jason Lively) and Fred (Tim McDaniel) making a precarious living trying to film low-budget horror movies.

Warren is suddenly summoned to the reading of his late grandfather's will and he has hopes of a substantial inheritance. But all he is left with is a dusty suitcase full of relics including a mysterious old clock.

However when the clock strikes midnight, Fred has a strange dream about the old man's death and when he wakes up he persuades his partner it could be the basis for a new epic.

At the witching hour the following night, the chimes are accompanied by the manifestation of the ghost of grandfather McCloud's wizened butler, Lewis, who proceeds to inhabit the look-alike dummy Fred has constructed from his dream.

Lewis explains a grisly secret from the past which has subsequently entailed a property scam meaning that the McCloud mansion is now part of a studio complex owned by the unscrupulous film mogul Stan Gordon (Paul Gleason).

The youngsters, guided by Warren's girlfriend Laurie (Jill Whitlow), now know, along with Gordon, that the McCloud fortune is buried somewhere in the mansion. Plenty of laughs as the search for the treasure takes some unexpected directions.

Touchstone continue to rake the money in with Turner and Hooch. In this the latest of the "odd couple" films, a rather fussy policeman and a slovenly dog become "best friends."

Although close on the heels of the similarly themed Universal hit K-9, Turner and Hooch is doing good business. If only because of the performances of the title characters and the immutable law of nature that people love ugly dogs.

Tom Hanks plays Scott Turner, a prissy police detective who is leaving



Turner and Hooch — pulling together to reap rewards for Touchstone.

a quaint but unexciting California seaside town to pursue serious criminals in a big city. During his replacements training period, the town's only major crime takes place and Hanks is so excited he decides to use his holiday time to investigate the murder. His only witness is the victim's horrendously dirty dog, Hooch, who shows affection by aiming his front paws at Hanks.

More marriages have ended out worse and blossomed, so it is not unexpected when the fastidious Hanks starts caring for the uncouth pooch. An auxiliary plot concerns a money laundering ring operating in a fish packing factory that Hooch is able to "sniff out" with Turner's guidance.

Director Roger Spottiswoode whose previous attempt at comedy The Best of Times, was also set in a low-key California town, has the ability to bring more depth to the locals than most directors.

The Monterey coast is photographed beautifully by Adam Greenburg, making you wonder why anyone should wish to leave such a place. Hanks and Beasley (Hooch) work so well together that the climax is a bit of a shock, but for those who

prefer cute films to have cut endings, Spottiswoode (or some of the five credited screen-writers, who included the brains trust responsible for such inspired fare as Legal Eagles, Beverly Hills Cop and Rent-A-Cop ties everything up nicely in the end.

Hit list stars Jan Michael Vincent as an ex-boxer who will stop at nothing to find his kidnapped son. When a mafia boss wants to exert pressure on Vincent, who is about to testify against him, he sends in Caleck, a shoe salesman by day, but also a cold-blooded killer when his price is paid. But it all goes wrong when he mistakes the house and kidnaps the wrong boy.

BBC Video World is now available, a fortnightly look at current affairs and some of the best of recent programmes. Included in Volume 15 is the first of the very popular series Black Adder Goes Forth, more to follow. White Mischief, Footloose, Testament and Rich and Famous are among this week's other releases. Till We Meet Again is a new best-seller from Judith Kerr.

The above films by courtesy of the Video Club Tel 5724372, Video Nuff Sahitya and VFI Farwaniya/Fintas Towers.

## Christian Dior

By Firoze Rangoonwalla

THERE are a thousand film aspirants at any given time and out of them 999 are those who want to become actors, preferably heroes and heroines. The craze is more acute in the mofussil towns and cities, as the youths are far away from Bombay. They are blinded by the tinsel glamour, as they don't get to see the stars, the shootings and the reality of hard work and struggle. They dream of hitting the top of fame and wealth.

As if to serve them or exploit them, whichever way we see it, film acting schools have sprouted up in Bollywood. The people running it are themselves either out-of-work or unsuccessful artists of the past. Some have seriously formed good set-ups and impart theoretical and practical training with video cameras etc. Others are just out to fool the hopefuls and make a fast buck. Many are the students who spent money, got no chances and went back home, feeling ashamed. Some of the so-called classes and institutes are just money-making rackets.

Even since the official Film and TV Institute at Poona closed its acting course, these small schools have explored the field. But except for Roshan Tarneja and to some extent Asha Chandra, none have turned out any prominent artists. Tarneja was a professor in the F.T.I.I. itself and even to day his ex-students like Jaya Bachchan, Shatrughan Sinha, Danny etc, touch his feet. After the institute period, he opened his own Actors' Studio, though he has not been lucky or successful in getting good star material, ever after that.

Asha Chandra who runs her class at Juhu, the Beverly Hills of Bollywood, has become eccentric and over-confident. She mostly made her name with crash courses for already selected artists, like Rishi Kapoor, Dimple, Sunny, Amrita, Raj Babbar, Jackie Shroff, Meenakshi, Mandakini, Chumky etc. She is proud that when Raj Kapoor discovered new talents, he sent them to her to get polished. Other producers also did the same. But of late, this is not happening and Asha Chandra, herself an ex-actress, seems to be a desperate "star-maker."

Instead of giving an academic spot, her school gives the impression of a funny film joint. She keeps changing the spelling of her own name, the latest being Ashha and even offers "sensational and special" holiday courses. She has slashed her fees by half, calls herself a one-woman show and claims to have millions of fans. She says that she receives letters written with the blood of the candidates and some threatening suicide if she does not train them.

Her rules for admission are also comically laid down by her, when a student approaches. She offers the special courses only to the needy and not those who pretend to be so. The selection is totally at her discretion and will (whims and fancies, could be also added). She does not guarantee board, lodge or work. She starts the course only on her birthday or some auspicious day. And she claims to have the best wishes of the elite of the industry and the country in her "noble mission". The 2-month course costs five thousands rupees.

In her talks with friends and scribes, Asha says that she has a deep relationship with the supreme power which uses her as



Parvati Khan



Asha Chandra

the medium. She admits she became a flop actress after her F.T.I.I. diploma, but feels more proud to be a star-creator. She curses the institute course as being all wrong. She unlearned it and prepared her own lessons. She admits that now the standard of aspirants has fallen tremendously. But she gets the sons of millionaires, to train up.

Another lady doing it on a more sober level is ex-dancer Madhumati. She was a Parsi girl who took to films, married a Punjabi Bhangda dancer-actor Deepak Balraj and then started a class. She also claims to have trained Chumky and Amrita, which puts her in direct clash with the volatile Asha Chandra. Moreover, Madhu teaches them to dance as well as act. She even taught Farha and Dara Singh's muscle-boy Vindoo. Govinda flitted through her class, then decided to make up his own dance steps. Most stars who find dancing on sets difficult, come to her for training. The dance craze has intensified, with swinging songs now accounting for the big success of films.

There are many other small and big actor's studios, since all aspirants can't get into Tarneja's class. For example, Kumar Bhutani's acting school recently introduced its first batch of artists to the press. But names like Rana Rizvi, Nikhil Bangal, Mala Shah or Neelu are still to make a name for themselves. Old-timers like Gajanan Jagirdar and Bharat Bhushan had also headed such schools out now they are almost closed. Anil Nagarath is running another one, while some agencies are offering registration and assignments to new talents on commission basis.

It's a big wide world or rather jungle of actors. First, all try to get into films. Then some divert to video, TV serials or even modelling, while some are completely rejected. Many dreams



Mandakini

are punctured and the starry wishes get dashed against harsh realities. Still the youngsters keep coming with a sparkle in the eyes and a prayer on the lips. All cannot be born stars. But will these aspirants be "made"? Only their luck has the answer.

### Star slips

Rekha: I am not afraid of old age. My beauty will never decrease, however old I may grow. That is my determination and will-power. Yes, the colour of the beauty may change but the attraction will remain the same. Dipinti: In one kissing scene for "Souten Ki Beti", Summet Saigal stood paralysed and nervous. I don't know what is wrong with him. He is so shy. Kissing, like clapping, needs two equal responses. Finally that kiss turned out to be very bad. Chumky: Do you know why I love Sonam so much? Because I have seen her at close quarters. She's a baby who gets excited at little things. Pooja Bedi: My dad (Kabir) and Sonu (Walia) make a striking pair. So why not? I am not match — making for dad. But it's really good that he's seeing a girl. Sunny: Amrita Singh is not a hypocrite. But she is not fair to others around her. She misuses her popularity very easily. I won't talk more about her. It is she who loves to blabber a lot. Raj Babbar: I have never hated Dimple. I was upset with her and rightly, because of what she told the press about me.

### Behind the screen

The Sunny and Dimple affair is getting curious in its lack of secrecy. It is being displayed rather blatantly. Industry people wonder if papa Dharm is giving it his more blessings. This may be for the sake of Sunny's career in his forthcoming films. What's more, Dharm himself has a few good films with Dimple. What about Sunny's good wife Pooja at home? Well, the Deol wives are like the Kapoor wives.

Madhuri Dixit already considers herself the tops and nothing but the tops. So she sneers at other big heroines, and when she meets them

publicly, she only offers fixed fake smiles. But she is paly with the likes of Madhvi (from South) because she is no competition at all. In fact, even Madhvi's name is like a pale shadow of Madhuri. So people go to see Madhuri's films thinking she heroine to be Madhuri. And Miss Dixit feels thrilled about it.

Parvati (Nadeem) Khan, wife of the cameraman and daughter-in-law of writer Ravi Masoom is crossing the limits of decency in public appearance. We condone her cabaret dance done in youthful days for "Ek Baar Phir". But why put up a lusty disco dance in a "neck-deep" dress just because her new cassette album "Dil diwana ho gaya" was released? Singers surely should behave better.

There is one Eve called Adam who is creating shockwaves in film world. That is Lubna Adams who keeps switching her Vinod Khanna affair, off and on, as he pleases. Lubna comes somewhere between the boring unions and separations of Adam Vinod with Eve Amrita. With this position, imposed on herself, Adams is making all other Eves blush with shame.

On her comeback trail, good old Mumtaz will have to be very careful how she gets herself photographed. She has aged beyond her normal age. The bloated face and pug nose become unphotogenic. No doubt the producer has cast her as an elderly woman, with Shatrughan as the matching partner and young Prasenjit as the untalented one. Still, you can't have an actress looking unattractive in the entire film.

Dilip Kumar is bent on re-doing the same routine of generation gap, fight with the son or daughter, turning himself into a Don etc. After "Kanoon Apna Apna" and crossing swords with Sunny Dutt he will do the same again in "Izzatdar" with vagabond by Govinda. Did we not see it all in "Shakti", "Masnah" etc.

### Star interview

Mandakini

Q. You have several films and many are being released, too. But none is making much impact, either at box

office or for your star value. A. Partly true. But can I help it? I don't make the films. Something must have gone wrong with the directors, producers and the co-stars, too. So many people together make a film.

Q. But too many films of all sorts could have affected your standing as a star and actress? A. Today the standing of the industry itself is at stake. We are only a part of the big machine, just the small wheels or the big wheels, whatever you may call. We have to accept several films at a time because there are too many cliques in film. If you sign a film well in advance, then others try all their tricks to get you removed, replaced.

Q. After the sensational success of your first film "Ram Teri", you could have consolidated your gains and enhanced your value as a popular heroine? A. In our industry, except for one or two people, there is hardly any value commanded by any heroine. The sliding down is pretty fast. Films are all hero-oriented. One heroine is considered as good as the other. So there is no real value attached. They don't even try to draw out the best in you, like the late Raj Kapoor used to do.

Q. Can you not secure good worthwhile roles by being selective? A. Frankly, in the beginning, all of us, I and my family were ignorant about films and the ways of the industry. Lots of offers began to come soon after the success of "Ram Teri". We did not know which to select and which to refuse. When a role is offered, you can hardly visualise how the film will shape out and what will it look like in its finished stage. That makes it difficult to be selective. All one can check are the banner, the director and the overall set-up. But even they are no guarantees.

Q. Have you suffered due to bad public relations or rather press relations? A. The press cannot make or mar any star. It can neither do good nor bad.

Q. Any ambitions left? A. Yes, to work with Amitabh, also Anil Kapoor and Jackie and of course with outstanding show-men and directors. After all, I am a Raj Kapoor discovery.



## Happy birthday



Razmi Sherifdeeri celebrates her 8th birthday today December 14. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Razmi goes to the New English School and likes stamp collecting.



Albin Michael celebrates his 4th birthday on December 15. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Albin goes to the Alabeer Nursery School and likes drawing and music.



April Marie Tolosa celebrates her 2nd birthday today December 14. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

April likes singing and marching.



Christy Fernandes celebrates her 12th birthday on December 16. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Christy goes to the Carmel School and likes drawing and painting.



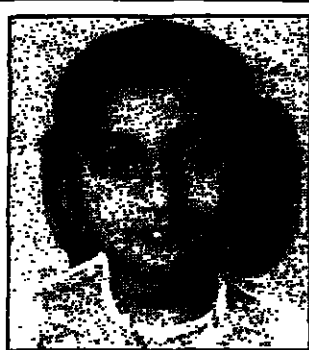
Murshid Ansa celebrates his 7th birthday December 17. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Murshid goes to the Indian School and likes stamp collecting.



Reema D'Souza celebrates her 2nd birthday on December 16. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Reema likes dancing.



Hase Micheal celebrates her 5th birthday on December 15. Happy birthday from parents and family.

Hase goes to the United Indian School and likes drawing and stamp collecting.



Maher Mahboob Ahmed celebrates his 1st birthday on December 16. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

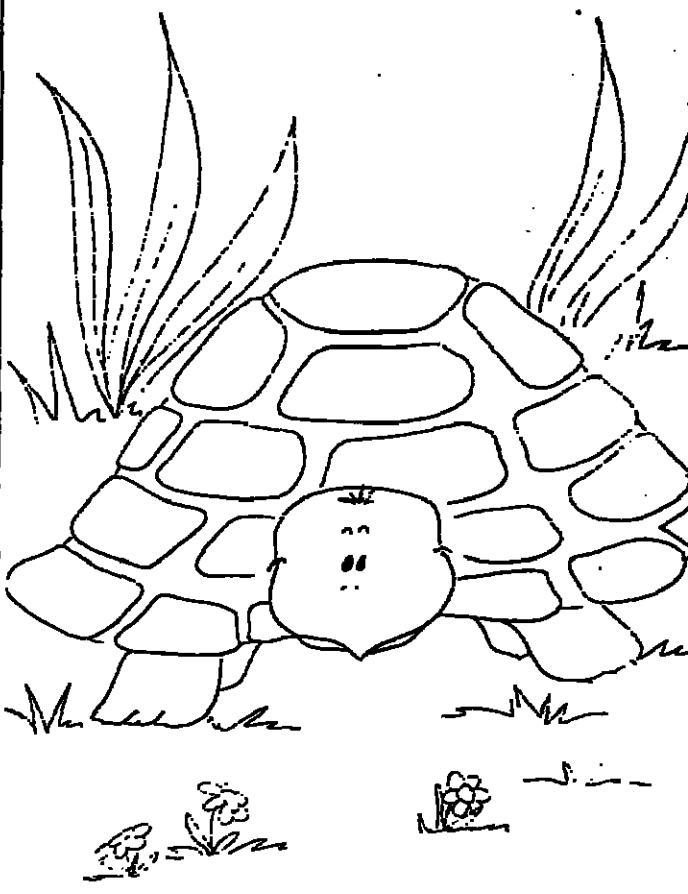
Maher likes cartoons and dancing.



Remul Pinto celebrates her 3rd birthday on December 16. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Remul likes cartoons and dancing.

## Colouring time



TURTLE

Put three brown buttons on the coat.

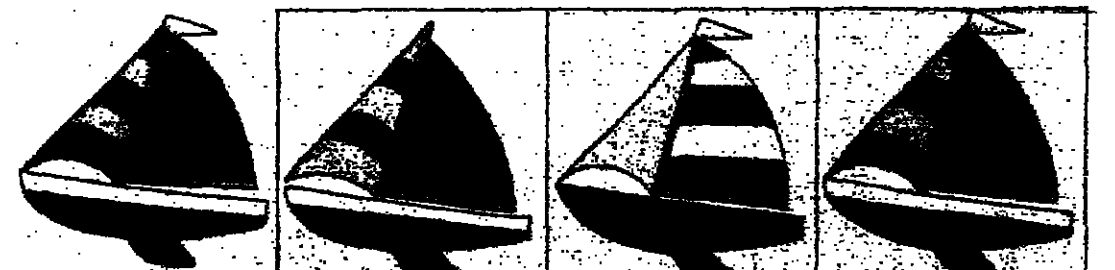


## Modern School visit Arab Times

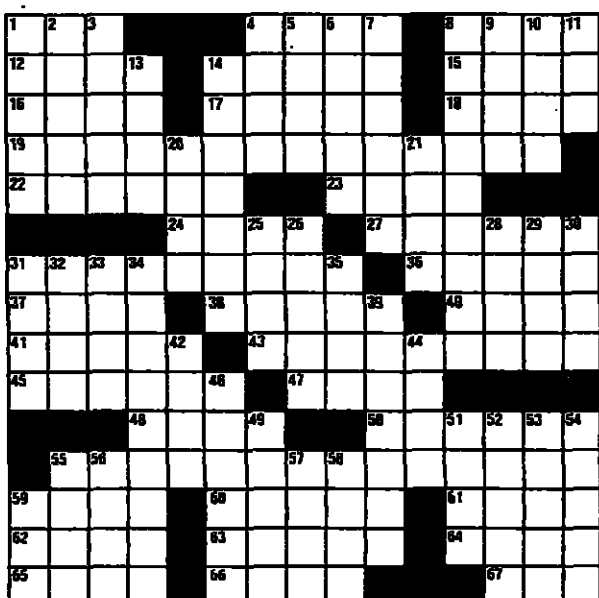
Last week the Modern School paid a visit to the Arab Times. The young students toured the various sections and learnt the basics about making a successful newspaper. The pictures show the students in the tele room.

Like this ...

Find another



## TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Pop's mate
  - Die spots
  - Nut's companion
  - plaisir
  - Galleo was one
  - Jai follow
  - Decorator's advice
  - Employee's quest
  - Frost
  - The very best
  - Radio nuisance
  - Length times width
  - Beer, informally
  - It's often private
  - See 19 Across
  - Welling up
  - Arrow poison
  - Jagged
  - The first Mrs. Copperfield
  - Desolate
  - See 19 Across
  - Still wishful
  - Theater section
  - German assembly hall
  - Swallow
  - See 19 Across
  - Longfellow's bell town
  - Buenos
  - Rabbit or Fox
  - City on the Moselle
  - Trick's alternate
  - Dover
  - Church area
  - Bird food
  - Inexperienced
- DOWN**
- Playwright Connolly and namesakes
  - Unconcealed
  - Greek
  - sorceress
  - Chanteuse Edith
  - "Lord, —?"
  - Former Turkish title
  - Curtis the lip
  - Voracious fish
  - Hodgepodge
  - Genie's home
  - Cravat
  - Paint layer
  - Come by
  - Spurne
  - Fair grades
  - Pub-game item
  - Bar seat
  - Believe, old style
  - Fairy-tale heavy
  - Raise
  - Angle
  - Division word
  - Harvest
  - Publish in
  - installments
  - Ice star Phil, to friends
  - Most tense
  - 11th cen. Danish king of England: Var.
  - M. Coty
  - Delights in
  - Flaming
  - Chews the fat
  - Trials' partner
  - Inscribed pillar
  - Hurled
  - Grade
  - and crafts
  - Corner
  - Chief
  - "Today I — man"

## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SCOT ASTA MADE  
ALLI SPAR COVER  
KIDD HANDMEDOWN  
ENCINA GOAL NYE  
GLEAM RUTH  
OSTEO SLIEST  
HAT ODDS SCREAM  
ACHE FEAR ACRE  
SMEARS YEAR OTT  
ESTATE FROWN  
STUD CURDS  
IRA IBIS HEARTH  
OUTOFSTYLE PARE  
TELLY QNER UTES  
ARID REDS PEWS

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

## A LITTLE CARE DOES THE TRICK

Both vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ K 8 7 2  
♥ J 7 3  
♦ A J 10 8 5 4  
♣ Void

**EAST**  
♠ 10 5 3  
♥ K Q 10  
♦ K Q 9 6 2  
♣ A 4 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ A Q J 9 4  
♥ A 8  
♦ Void  
♣ A K 9 8 7 3

The bidding:

|     | South | West | North | East |
|-----|-------|------|-------|------|
| 2 ♠ | Pass  | 2 ♦  | Pass  |      |
| 2 ♥ | Pass  | 3 ♣  | Pass  |      |
| 6 ♣ | Pass  | Pass | Pass  |      |

Opening lead: Six of ♣

Dear Omar:

In an historic decision, the Board of Directors of the American Contract Bridge League voted to sanction the Omar Sharif World Individual Tournament, to be held at the Showboat Hotel in Atlantic City next May. This is the first time master points will be awarded at a tournament with money prizes.

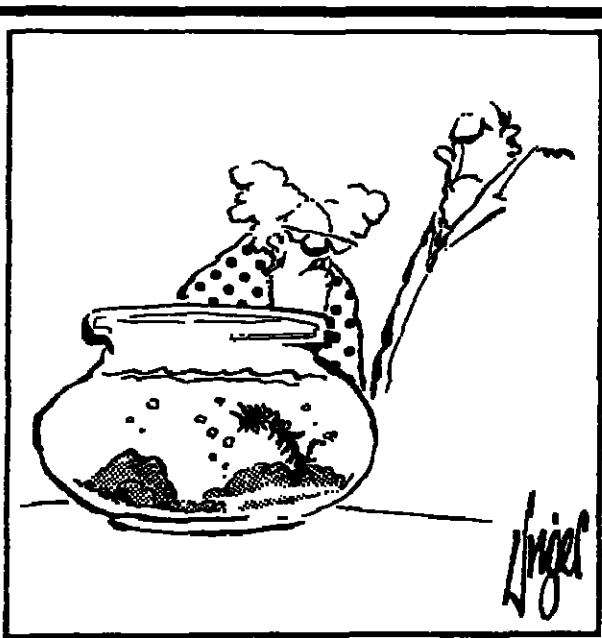
I would not expect this hand to cause much problem in either the Championship or Open division. It did, though, in a rubber bridge

game, where North-South reached six spades on the natural sequence shown. Because of the void in partner's suit, South was disinclined to probe for a grand slam.

West found the excellent lead of a trump, and declarer was rather careless in handling the combined assets. East withheld the ten of trumps so declarer's nine won. After cashing the ace of clubs, declarer ruffed a club, discarded a heart on the ace of diamonds, came to hand with the ace of hearts and tried to ruff another club with the eight of trumps. East overruffed with the ten, returned a trump and declarer was stranded with a club loser.

As you can see, 13 tricks are there for the taking. At trick two South should ruff a low club on the board—cashing the ace was a mistake. After discarding a heart on the ace of diamonds, the closed hand is entered with the ace of hearts for another club ruff. Declarer returns to hand with a ruff and trumps a third club with the king of spades. Everything is now in place to bring the hand to a speedy and successful conclusion. South ruffs a red suit with the jack, draws the outstanding trumps and simply cashes his winners.

As ever,  
Tannah



"It's just as 'Goldie' left it four years ago today."

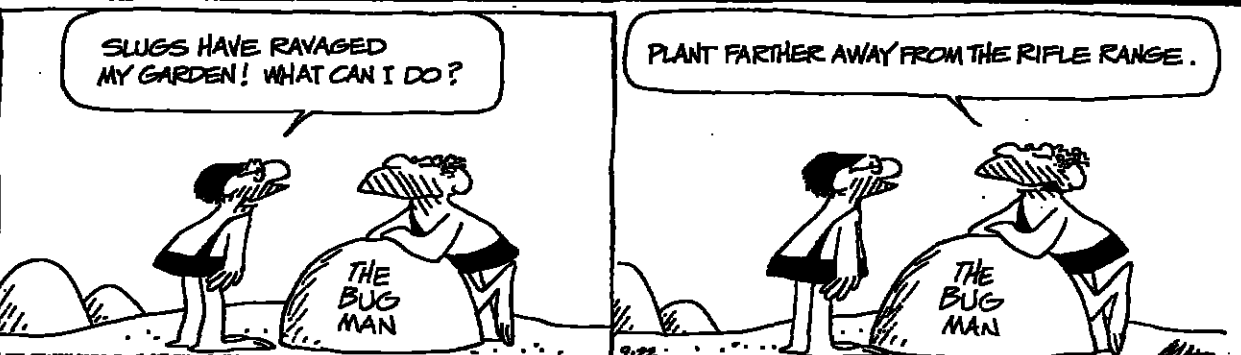
## THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brent Parker and Johnny Hart



## B.C.

By Johnny Hart



## YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

Today you will have much to be pleased about. There will be some good news. You should not however let success go to your head. Be moderate.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

The financial prospects are improving, but you will have to continue to be frugal. Listen to what others are saying. Control your impulses and your temper. Be consistent.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

This is going to be a busy day. Take care you do not try to do too much all at once. Make your partner feel wanted. Be sincere.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

Keep your mind on the task in front of you. Do not spend too long chatting on the phone. Do not underestimate the obstacles. Be objective.



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

Avoid overrating yourself, but do not slack either. A little more goodwill is what is needed just now. Do not stay too long. Be firm.



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

You will be able to get on well with those around you. Make sure you do not overspend. Watch your appearance but do not be vain. Be understanding.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)

Today you will be able to get a lot done. Those in love will have to take steps to keep their love alive. Make yourself useful. Be considerate.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

This is not the time to go to extremes of any kind. You will be able to put yourself in command of the situation. Do not neglect a child. Be responsive.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

You will be a little more intuitive. Do not take work home with you. Have more trust in those you work with. Be confident.



Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19

You should not do things by halves. Have the courage of your convictions. There is no need to be afraid. Be lenient.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

If you do your best you will have reason to be pleased with the results. You will be better able to maintain harmony. You will feel a little more at ease. Be flexible.



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

Make sure you do not say what you do not feel. Avoid indulging in daydreams. Do not think it is too late to learn. Be broad-minded.



## JUNIOR TIMES

### Word search

#### KEEP IN TOUCH

|        |          |         |           |         |
|--------|----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| ADVISE | CHAT     | LETTER  | SEE       | WELCOME |
| AGENT  | CONVEY   | MEET    | SOCIAL    | WIRE    |
| ANSWER | DATE     | MEMO    | SPEAK     | WORD    |
| ATTEND | DIVULGE  | MESSAGE | STAKE     | WRITE   |
| BESTOW | EXCHANGE | NOTE    | TELEPHONE |         |
| BOND   | GREET    | PHONE   | TELL      |         |
| CABLE  | HERALD   | RELATE  | TRAVEL    |         |
| CALL   | IMPART   | RENDER  | TRYST     |         |
| CARD   | INFORM   | REVEAL  | VISIT     |         |

### Games!

I know a boy called James  
Who went to play  
With the Danes, and  
there  
He saw many games.

He rode on a pony  
Who was called Tony  
But it was really a  
phony.

Then a girl called Benny,  
Came to their house  
To play with her penny.  
But she forgot to wear  
her blouse.

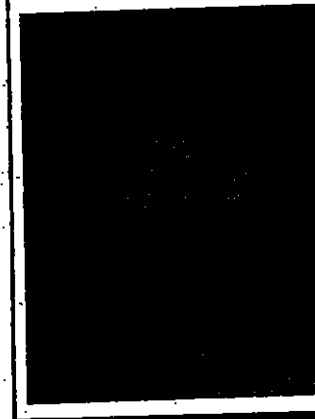
### Tennis

There is a boy  
Called Dennis  
Who likes to play tennis

He hits the ball  
On the wall  
And says he scored a  
point

He keeps his bat  
On the mat  
Very close to his cat  
And says he likes that!

By Sameer Bhat,  
11 Years,  
Indian School (Sahiyah).



### Dear Junior readers,

By the beginning of December plum puddings are made, cards are being written, the holly is ready to be picked and the Christmas trees are waiting to be chosen.

The first Christmas trees date from the time of the Germans Apostle St Boniface, who replaced the sacred oak of the pagan god Odin with a fir tree decorated and lighted with candles, in tribute to Jesus Christ. When Queen Victoria married Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, he introduced this custom to England.

Manal



A BLIZARD is part bird, part lizard.

### What Is Change?

Are the things you see today the same as they were yesterday? A week ago? A month ago? A year ago? Nothing ever stays the same. Things CHANGE. Change means that things become different with time.

Draw a line to connect the things on one side to the things that they change to with time. Then color the page.



snowman



butterfly



egg



water hat, and scarf



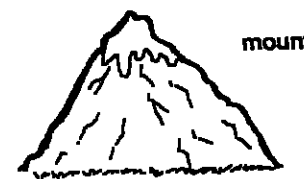
seed sprout



bird



caterpillar



mountain



baby



plant



volcano



girl

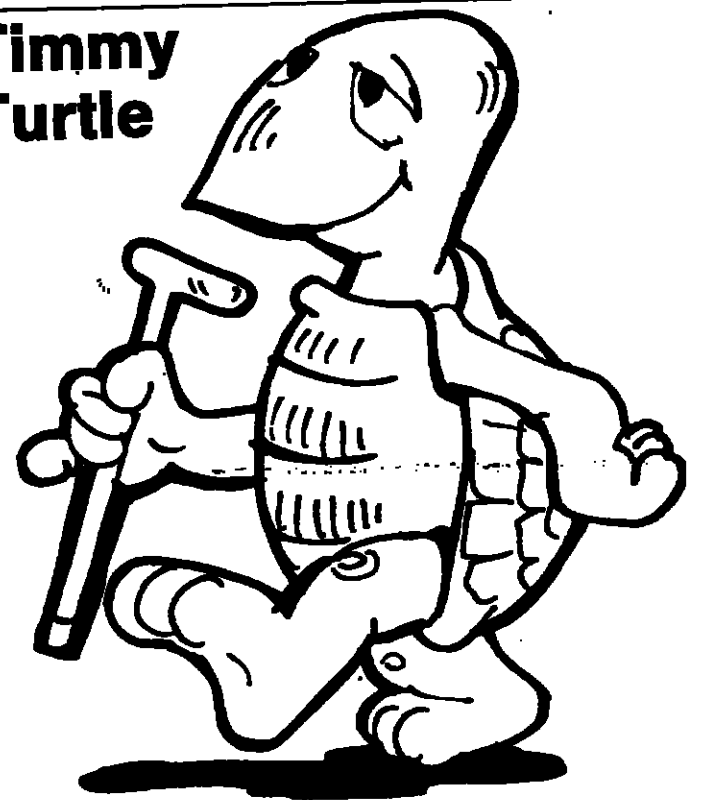
### The Wheels on the Bus

Draw something with wheels in the picture of the town.



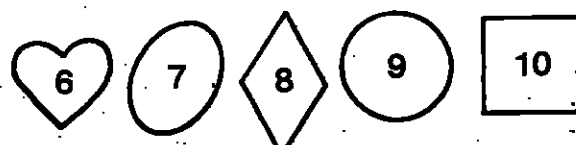
Share your picture with some classmates.  
What different pictures did you draw?

### Timmy Turtle



- Timmy Turtle takes 3 walks each day. On his first walk he went 27 yards, on the 2nd walk 12 yards and on the 3rd 19 yards. How far did he walk today?
- During his walk he met 7 rabbits, 3 raccoons, and 11 field mice. How many little animals did he meet?
- The turtle saw 21 turtle eggs in the mud. When he returned home, 14 had hatched. How many still need to hatch?
- The turtle ate 17 bugs, 3 leaves, 16 flies and 1 beetle. How many things did he eat?
- The pond that Timmy lives in is 20 feet wide and 25 feet long. How far is it around the pond?
- It rained for 45 minutes in the morning, 55 minutes in the afternoon and 25 minutes that night. How many minutes did it rain in all?
- On his walk, Timmy saw many birds. He saw 4 Robins, 5 Quail, 12 Starlings and 11 Blue Jays. How many birds did he see?

### Ballet Subtraction



Subtract the problems. "Ring" the problems with the correct shape.

$$\begin{array}{r} 15 \\ - 9 \\ \hline 6 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 14 \\ - 6 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 11 \\ - 4 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 15 \\ - 7 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 17 \\ - 8 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 14 \\ - 4 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{r} 10 \\ - 4 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 15 \\ - 8 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{r} 12 \\ - 6 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{r} 13 \\ - 4 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 18 \\ - 9 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{r} 12 \\ - 4 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{r} 14 \\ - 8 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

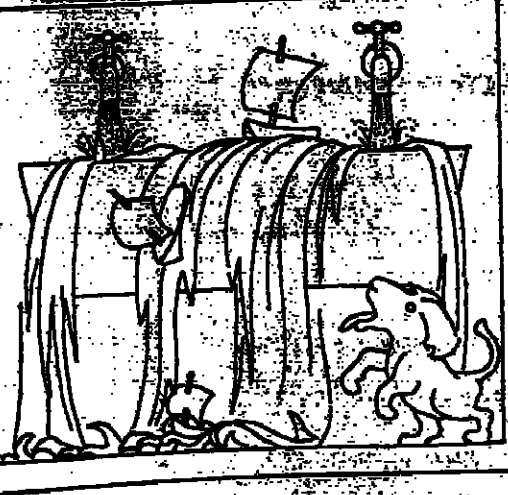
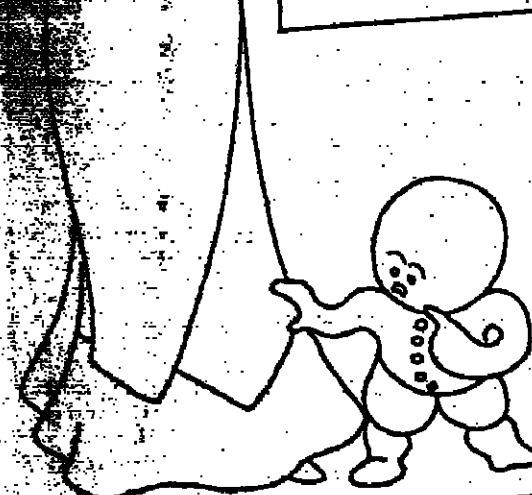
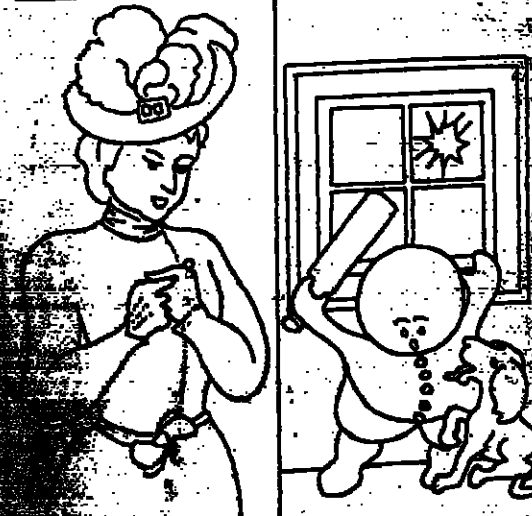
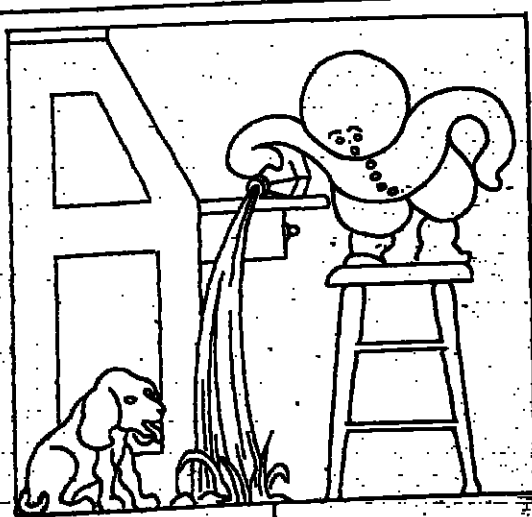
### WILLY

WILLY broke the window-pane.

Willy spilled the ink,  
Willy left the water-pipe  
Running in the sink!

Did his mother punish him?  
No! I'll tell you why.  
Willy, he owned up to it,  
And didn't tell a lie!

Willy told his mother  
Before she found it out  
"I am so sorry!"  
And she had no doubt!



Is your birthday to come soon?  
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?  
Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!  
Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them.  
The details we need are:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
School: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hobbies: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
(confidential)

Your favourite most recent picture (4x6)

Send to:  
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To avoid belated greetings please send within a week before the special date



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## Fenech to undergo operation

SYDNEY, Australia, Dec 13. (AP) Three-time world boxing champion Jeff Fenech entered a hospital today to undergo hand surgery that he hopes will save his career, said his trainer, Johnny Lewis.

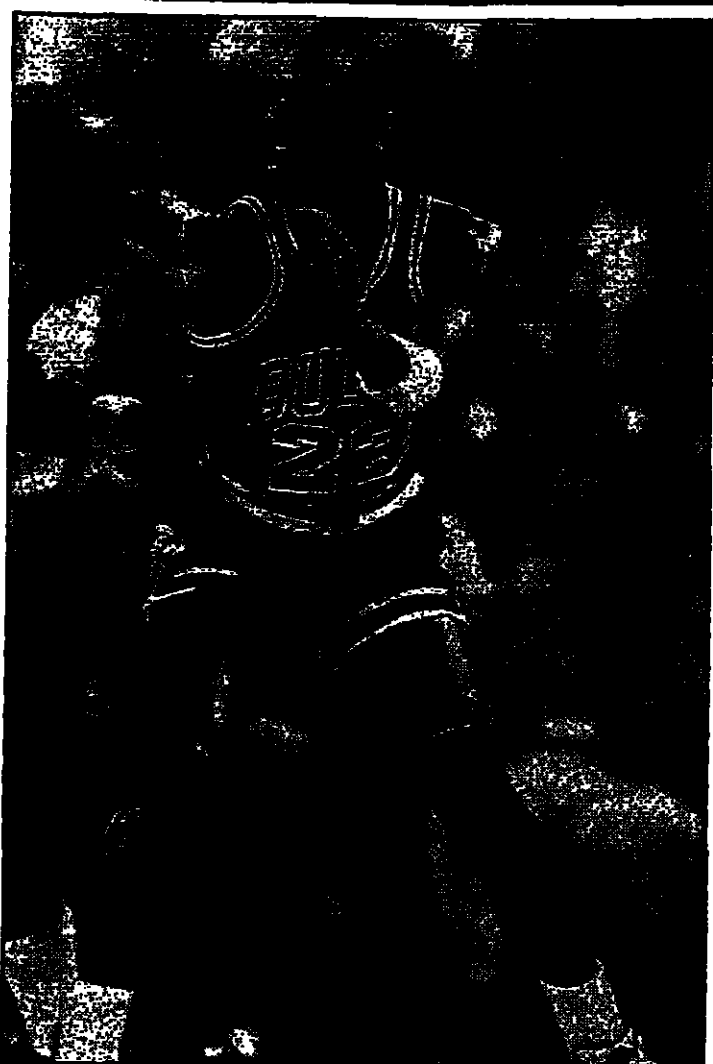
Australian Fenech, who is unbeaten in 24 fights and currently holds the World Boxing Council featherweight title, has been troubled by painful hands throughout his boxing career. He broke bones in both hands during a title defense against Mexican Marcos Villaseca in April and again injured his right hand last month when outpointing Mexican Mario Martinez in a super-featherweight title eliminator.

Fenech, 25, who is regarded as one of the best boxers in the world, hopes to fight for a fourth world title early in 1990.

He previously held the IBF bantamweight and WBC super-bantamweight titles.

Lewis said the operation would involve the lengthening and possible reconstruction of tendons in Fenech's right fist and would be performed by specialist Dr Bruce Shepherd.

Lewis said the operation would be similar to one Shepherd performed last year.



Jordan scored 41 points

## Jordan helps Bulls outclass Mavericks

### Pacers edge Timberwolves

CHICAGO, Dec 12. (AP) Michael Jordan scored 41 points and the Chicago Bulls led almost the entire way last night, beating the Dallas Mavericks 105-97 for their fifth victory in six games.

Jordan, the NBA's top scorer with 32 points per game, had 21 in the fourth quarter. The Bulls led 84-81 midway through the final quarter before Jordan made a jump shot and dunk, keying a 15-8 break.

Dallas, now 3-4 under interim head coach Richie Adubato, lost its third straight game, its longest losing streak of the season.

Mavericks secured 24 points and Glenn "Doc" Rivers added 21 as the Atlanta Hawks posted their seventh consecutive victory, 102-94 over the San Antonio Spurs.

Dominique Wilkins added 20 points for Atlanta. San Antonio rookie David Robinson was in early foul trouble and played sparingly, and Terry Cummings and Maurice Cheeks each scored 18 points for the Spurs.

Pacers 113, Timberwolves 112. OT Chuck Person scored 31 points and set up a wild finish in overtime as the surging Indiana Pacers held off the Minnesota Timberwolves 113-112.

Indiana (12-5) is more than two months ahead of last season's pace. The Central Division-leading Pacers did not get their 12th victory last season until their 52nd game on Feb. 24.

Nets 97, 76ers 82. Dennis Hopson scored 14 of his 24 points during a 40-17 second-half run that carried the New Jersey Nets to a 97-82 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

Charles Barkley had 33 points and 17 rebounds for the 76ers.

Lakers 103, Hornets 89. James Worthy, almost ejected early in the game, scored 27 points and grabbed eight rebounds as the Los Angeles Lakers fought past Charlotte 103-89, the Hornets' eighth straight loss.

Michael Cooper of the Lakers and Charlotte's Stuart Gray were ejected after a second-quarter brawl that also involved Worthy. Four technical fouls were called.

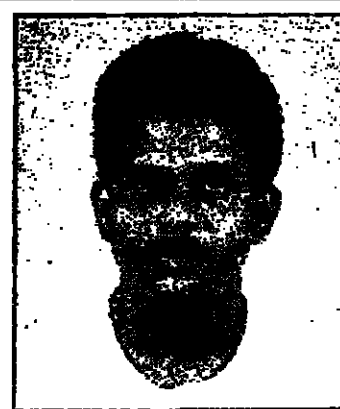
Bucks 106, Magic 103. Jay Humphries made two free throws with six seconds left as the Milwaukee Bucks held off a late rally to beat the Orlando Magic 106-103.

Rockets 105, Suns 83. Alkeem Olajuwon scored 25 points, grabbed 20 rebounds and blocked nine shots to lead Houston to a 105-83 victory over Phoenix and end a four-game losing streak.

Trail Blazers 99, Clippers 92. Terry Porter scored 22 points, including four during a decisive 10-0 run late in the game, lifting the Portland Trail Blazers to a 99-92 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Results

|              |     |               |     |
|--------------|-----|---------------|-----|
| Atlanta      | 102 | San Antonio   | 94  |
| Indiana      | 113 | Minnesota     | 112 |
| L.A. Lakers  | 103 | Charlotte     | 89  |
| New Jersey   | 97  | Philadelphia  | 82  |
| Chicago      | 105 | Dallas        | 97  |
| Houston      | 105 | Phoenix       | 83  |
| Milwaukee    | 106 | Orlando       | 103 |
| Detroit      | 121 | Denver        | 108 |
| Portland     | 99  | L.A. Clippers | 92  |
| Golden State | 118 | Sacramento    | 103 |



Rohan de Silva



Cecille Ronquillo

## De Silva, Ronquillo take bowling crowns

By Sonny Mariano

THE Philippine Bowling Association in Kuwait (PBAK) recently held at the Holiday Inn bowling lanes the Grade C bowling tournament participated by all bowlers with an average score of 150 pinfalls and below as well as those who are new in the sport.

The format called for each bowler to play 6 games each and the one with the highest pinfalls in both the men and women's group will be declared the champion.

After all the participants had completed their games, Rohan de Silva emerged as the unheralded champion in the men's division with a total of 986 pinfalls. The other top finishers were Hill Al Kharmi (967) — first runner-up followed by Oying de Rojas (951) and Jaime Martinez also with 951 and finally Leng Pitoun with 935 was the fourth runner-up.

The High Game was submitted by Taha Guinoma with his 209 while the 3-game High Series of 511 belonged to Oying de Rojas.

In the women's side of the competition, Cecille Ronquillo topped the field with her 6 game total of 736 pinfalls. Young Taha emerged as the first runner up with her 733. The second runner-up position went to Cely Pacia after she garnered a total of 733 pinfalls. Elsa Varghese took the third runner-up honours when she scored 703 and Angie Borja with 697 was the fourth runner-up.

Cecille Ronquillo also took the High award by scoring 171 while Angie Borja also did the same by the taking the 3-game High Series award with her 404.

Coming up also at the Holiday Inn bowling lanes is the step ladder finals of the PBAK annual championship aptly called Battle of the Champions. The finalist in the men's group in order of their standing are as follows: Mar Evangelista, Lando Caburao, Rico Pino, Anukul Sae Tang and Dr Mumb Hamdan. In the women's division the finalist are Lynne Reyes, Arleen Bopecillo, Arce Ruiz, She Guimoy and Nitz Alinae.

## Organisers trim costs

OSLO, Dec 13. (Reuters) Norwegian organisers of the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer said yesterday that they had trimmed the spiralling costs of the Games.

But they will still cost three times more than originally planned.

The revised budget shows that the games will cost some 6.4 billion crowns (\$953 million), down from last month's estimated 7.75 billion (\$1.1 billion), the Lillehammer Olympic Organising Committee (LOOC) said in a statement.

"This is a 17 per cent reduction compared with the draft framework which was handed the organising committee on November 29," the LOOC said.

The LOOC said it planned to save cash by hiring facilities for the Games rather than building them.

The Norwegian government originally said it would underwrite 1.8 billion crowns (\$267 million) of the cost of staging the olympics, but government officials hinted recently that this guarantee could be increased to five billion crowns.

## Edberg, Becker set to clash

STUTTGART, West Germany, Dec 13. (Reuters) The final showdown of the 1980s between Stefan Edberg and Boris Becker will be the match which decides the winners of the Davis Cup this weekend.

Becker wiped out Edberg to steal the Wimbledon title in July. Edberg took revenge with a stunning and unexpected victory over the West German in the Masters final 10 days ago.

Now the two clash again as Sweden try to win back the Cup West Germany took in Gothenburg a year ago.

Though Sweden have also called up former world number one Mats Wilander and West Germany will be ably assisted by Carl-Uwe Steeb, it is Edberg or Becker, meeting in the singles and possibly the doubles, who should seal the outcome of the final which starts on Friday.

Edberg, ranked third in the world, has lost six of the seven finals he has played this year. But his performance at the Masters in New York, when he beat world number one Lendl and Becker on successive days, was a big boost for Sweden as they prepared to contest their seventh consecutive Cup final.

West German Davis Cup captain Nikki Pilic is hoping that Becker, second in the world rankings, will be fired up by his defeat in New York.

Wilander has a score to settle with Steeb who came back from two sets down to beat him in last year's final.

Ironically, the Swedish slump this year, which has seen Wilander lose all three of his Grand Slam titles, could work in his favour.

In Gothenburg, in front of 11,000 Swedish fans and appearing as world number one against the 73rd-ranked player, Wilander had much to live up to. In Stuttgart, now ranked 11th against Steeb's 15th, the burden will be lifted off the Swede.

"It suits us fine that the Germans are favourites," said Wilander. "There will be enormous pressure from the home crowd and that could favour us."

The West Germans have chosen a fast, indoor carpet surface to suit their playing style but Becker said they were not looking at victory as a foregone conclusion.

"Carl-Uwe will find it very difficult to repeat last year's feat," admitted Becker. "I think Mats will be very dangerous. He wouldn't play in the final if he didn't know he was in good form."

The doubles will be the biggest headache for Swedish captain Jonte Sjogren, who does not have a reliable partnership to send out against the probable German pairing of Becker and Eric Jelen — who beat Edberg and Anders Jarryd last December.

The Swedish duo also lost to unheralded Yugoslav Goran Ivanisevic and Goran Pripic in this year's semifinals and Sjogren may pick Jan Gunnarsson to partner Jarryd instead of Edberg.

The doubles match has always proved crucial for Sweden. On the three occasions they lost the doubles — 1983, 1986 and last year — they also lost the Davis Cup final.

## 49ers may face Bills without Montana

SANTA CLARA, California, Dec 13. (AP) If the Buffalo Bills were hoping to get a break and catch the San Francisco 49ers on Joe Montana's day off, they may need medical assistance.

Captain George Seifert says he's inclined to start Montana on Sunday, but not without doctor's clearance.

It's unlikely that the 49ers, 12-1 and a top contender to win the championship of US football, would risk serious injury to Montana by leaving him take all the snaps in the final two regular-season games. While the Bills are in the middle of a scrap for the AFC East title, the Dec 24 game against the Chicago Bears carries no playoff implications.

"I don't think he has to play every down of both of these ballgames to be sharp for the final game," Seifert reports yesterday, the day after Montana amassed a club-record 458 yards passing against the Rams.

Montana needed a cortisone shot before the Los Angeles game, which the 49ers won 30-27 to clinch the homefield advantage through the playoffs. But the next-to-last regular-season game, while important to the Bills, has no bearing on the 49ers' postseason prospects.

"It's a matter of what's the best thing for us right now for him right now, as far as the future of the final is concerned. Medically we have to answer that, and then we'll go from there," Seifert said.

Steve Young, the backup who abhors his job title, has actually completed a higher percentage of his passes than Montana, so the 49ers could rest Montana without risking accusations that they "lay down like dogs" against the Rams — the charge leveled by the Giants' Phil Simms a year ago.

Montana has completed 72 per cent of his passes (261 for 365) for 25 touchdowns with seven interceptions. Young, who did not play Monday, has connected on 77 per cent of his throws (49-64) for five TDs and one interception.

Three other injured players will be looked at before their injury status for Sunday is determined: defensive end Pete Kugler and cornerbacks Tim McKeever and Eric Wright, both suffering from groin injuries.

Darryl Felder was burned badly by the Rams in the first half and reportedly asked to come out of the game, but Seifert would not say whether a healthy McKeever would be the starter ahead of him.

One game that's likely to be on the 49ers' minds as they prepared for the final two tussle games is the 38-16 loss to the Rams at Candlestick Park in the season finale a year ago. Nothing was riding on the outcome for San Francisco and the Rams had the incentive of needing a win to nose out the Giants for a wild-card berth, hence Simms' "dogs" remark.

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## SPORTS

## Incredible reach Rothmans Cup semifinal

AS the weather gets colder, competition appears to get tougher as evidenced from the quarterfinals played at the Sour Grounds on Friday in the Rothmans Gold Cup Football Tournament, organised by Salween United Sports Centre, the sports wing of the Weekend Club.

The first game featured two strong clubs, incredible and UG Strikers, who got into action at the very start providing the spectators with an interesting and action-packed game. Incredible were at their best and made some well-co-ordinated moves that paid off through an early goal by Reduendo. The lead, however, was short-lived as Strikers' Salama, constantly on the move, soon got the equalizer.

Thereafter, the battle continued with some brilliant moves by both sides but it was incredible's Theodore that ended the first half with a beautiful goal.

After the change in ends, the action continued but despite pressure from Strikers, incredible held firm and went on to score, yet again, through Reduendo that sealed the fate of the game and sent incredible to the semifinals against Al Othman tomorrow.

Simultaneously on Ground B, Trivm Centre met giant killers, Goun Sporting, who had earlier eliminated Salween United. Trivm trained by Justin Viegas, is a much improved side and were deter-

mined to give their opponents a tough time. Sure enough, Trivm got right into action and produced two quick goals through George Cabral and Lawrence that stunned the Sporting lads but not for long as Joagum brought a relief and scored to end the first half.

Failure to maintain the tempo of the first half, proved too costly for Trivm as they let Alex get the equalizer. All attempts to score thereafter by both sides proved futile even at extra time. In the tie breaker, Trivm foiled two opportunities by shooting wide and thereby conceding the game to Sporting who meet Rising Stars in the other semifinal tomorrow.

In the second set of games, Rising Stars dominated the game and triumphed over Starline Goals 3-2 with Andrew scoring twice for Stars and Albert doing the same for Starline. The crucial and deciding goal was scored by Raj.

In the final encounter, Al Othman eliminated Gou Cultural Association in the tie breaker with no score until the end of extra time. Both teams played an evenly contested game. Gou Cultural Association failed to take advantage of their experience and the credit goes to Al Othman for an excellent defence. Al Othman meet incredible in the semifinals tomorrow in what promises to be a very exciting game.

## Brazil name 13 'exiles' for friendly

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec 13. (Reuters) Brazilian coach Sebastiao Lazaroni yesterday named 13 European "exiles" in his 16-man squad for next week's soccer international against the Netherlands in Rotterdam.

The only surprise in the party was full back Julio Cesar, who is currently playing for French side Montpellier and who last appeared in the Brazilian squad during the 1987 South America Cup in Argentina.

The only local players included for the match on December 20 were goalkeepers Taffarel of Internacional and Zé Carlos of Flamengo, and defender Dida of Palmeiras.

But Lazaroni said he was not allowed to use any Vasco da Gama or Sao Paulo players, with the clubs involved in the decisive series of the national championship.

"I had no other choice but to include on the list 13 players under contract in Europe," he told a news conference at the headquarters of the Brazilian Football Association (CBF).

He said two more players might be added to the squad if Vasco da Gama beat Sao Paulo in Saturday's first leg tie and clinch the championship.

Brazil have never beaten or scored against the Dutch. They lost 1-0 in a friendly in Amsterdam in 1963 and 2-0 in Dortmund during the 1974 World Cup in West Germany.

Pakistan out for 250  
Indians fight back

SIALKOT, Pakistan, Dec 13. (Reuters) India, jolted by a four-wicket burst from Pakistan fast bowlers, fought back to lead overall by 176 with six wickets and one day left in the fourth and final cricket Test today.

The touring team took a first innings lead of 74 after dismissing Pakistan for 250, but their attempt to press home the advantage foundered as they were reduced to 38 for four by Imran Khan and Wasim Akram.

However, opener Navjot Sidhu, who made an unbeaten 54, and Sachin Tendulkar, 33 not out, shared an unbroken fifth wicket stand of 64 to lead India to 102 for four when fading light ended play 14 overs early.

The prospect of a definite result after three drawn Tests had been heightened when Pakistan's last five first innings wickets went for 65 following yesterday's rest day.

Paceman Manoj Prabhakar sent back overnight batsmen Imran, caught behind for 25, and Nadem Akram, bowled leg stump as he played across the line.

The advent of the second new ball continued Pakistan's slide to their lowest total of the series, with fast bowler Vivek Razdan having Abdul

Qadir caught by Mohammad Azharuddin at third slip and bowling Wasim for 30.

Last wicket pair Zakir Khan and Waqar Younis frustrated India for nearly 50 minutes before Kapil Dev accounted for Younis to finish figures of two for 44 from 35.4 overs, while Razdan took five for 79 in his second Test.

India swiftly ran in to trouble when they batted a second time, captain Krishnamachari Srikkanth hooking Imran in to the hands of Wasim at fine leg after making only three. Srikkanth's seven innings in the series yielded only 97 runs.

The prolific Sanjay Manjrekar was next to go — the first of three wickets to crash for five runs — when Imran trapped him lbw for four.

Azharuddin made only four before Shoaib Mohammad held a fine catch at short square leg of Wasim and, without addition to the total of 38, Shastri was lbw to the same bowler.

Sidhu and 16-year-old Tendulkar, who took a blow on his nose from a Younis delivery, checked the collapse with their batting stand in which they struck eight and four fours respectively.



Sachin Tendulkar

**Scoreboard**  
INDIA first innings 324 (S. Manjrekar 72, M. Azharuddin 52, Wasim Akram five for 101)  
PAKISTAN first innings (overnight 181 for five)  
Aamer Malik lbw b Prabhakar..... 9  
Rameez Raja b Razdan..... 56  
Shoaib Mohammad b Razdan..... 23  
Javed Miandad c More b Kapil Dev 7

Salim Malik c Shastri b Razdan..... 34  
Imran Khan c More b Prabhakar..... 25  
Nadim Abbas b Prabhakar..... 10  
Wasim Akram b Razdan..... 30  
Abdul Qadir c Azharuddin..... 7

Zakir Khan not out..... 9  
Waqar Younis c More b Kapil Dev 4  
Extras (b-7 lb-24 nb-4 w-1)..... 36  
Total..... 250

Fall of wickets: 1-11 2-76 3-87 4-133  
5-170 6-185 7-194 8-222 9-233

Bowling: Kapil Dev 35.4-17-44-2, Prabhakar 40-10-82-3, Razdan 27-5-79-5, Maninder Singh 1-0-4-0.

INDIA second innings  
K. Srikkanth c Wasim Akram b Imran..... 3  
N.S. Sidhu not out..... 54  
S.V. Manjrekar lbw b Imran..... 4  
M.A. Azharuddin c Shoaib b Wasim Akram..... 4  
R.J. Shastri lbw b Wasim Akram..... 0  
S. Tendulkar not out..... 33  
Extras (b-2 lb-1 nb-1)..... 33

Total (for four wickets, 32 overs) 102  
Fall of wickets: 1-10 2-33 3-38 4-38  
to bat: M. Prabhakar, Kapil Dev, Imran Khan, Maninder Singh, Vivek Razdan.

Bowling: Wasim Akram 12-6-13-2, Imran Khan 10-1-34-2, Shoaib Mohammad 1-1-0-0, Waqar Younis 5-0-28-0, Zakir Khan 4-0-24-0.

## Amateur laws

LONDON, Dec 13. (Reuters) Rugby union's world governing body is prepared to relax the amateur laws to allow players to receive money for speaking and writing on the game.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

**Speedbird Trophy:** The following players will make up the Indian XI squad to face the Great Britain XI in the Speedbird Trophy, donated by British Airways, at the New grounds in Ahmedabad tomorrow at 9:30 am: James, Andrew, Ashfaq, Saleem, Sandeep, Sajid, Baranuddin, Manoj, Rudy, Mukesh, Prashanth and Jayanthilal. All the players have been asked to be at the ground by 9:00 am.

**World mark:** Australian teenager Glen Housman swam faster yesterday than the long-standing world 1,500 metres freestyle mark of Soviet legend Vladimir Salnikov in Adelaide but was denied a world record by a technical fault. Housman became only the second man ever to break the 15-minute barrier in swimming's longest race in heats at Australia's Commonwealth Games swimming trials, but the automatic timing system failed to register his finishing touch.

**WBA title:** Jamaican Mike McCallum will defend his World Boxing Association middleweight title against Ireland's Steve Collins in early February, promoters said yesterday.

**Anti-doping accord:** Sports officials from 11 countries signed agreement yesterday to co-operate in combatting the use of drugs, including dope-testing each other's athletes. The accord was modelled after a US-Soviet agreement allowing the two countries to conduct short-notice cross-testing of athletes for steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs.

**Bhutto Tournament:** The Bhutto Memorial Tournament continues at the Quaid-e-Millat Ground tomorrow. In the first semifinal at 8:00 am, New Pak face Siddique Club and at 1:00 pm, Quaid-e-Millat meet Super Royal in the second semifinal.

**Filchek tourney:** The Filchek awarding ceremony for the First Active Chess Tournament has been postponed to Friday, Dec 22.

**Farwaniya cricket:** Entries are now open for the Farwaniya Knock-out Tournament, to be held under the supervision of the Sabah Cricket League. The tournament will start on Jan 5, 1990. The last date for entry is Jan 1. Interested teams can contact Mohammed Ahsan, Tel 4735170 or 4741146.

**Officials quit:** The leadership of the DTSB Federation, East German sport's controlling body, resigned on Tuesday after complaints from members that they were dragging their feet on reform to the country's most prestigious sector.

**Cup chance:** Roy Wegerie, the south African-born striker being courted by the United States, has been offered a chance to break into England's squad for the World Cup soccer finals.

**Yorkshire captain:** England batsman Martyn Moxon was appointed Yorkshire cricket captain yesterday in a further move by the English county club to improve their ailing fortunes.

**QPR midfielder:** Queen's Park Rangers midfielder Peter Reid yesterday joined his former manager Howard Kendall at Manchester City, the bottom club in the English First Division.

**Sheraton Bridge:** Results of Sheraton Bridge game played on Tuesday: N/S: 1. Sokolowski & Walkiewicz; 2. Ashkar & Saeed; 3. Dr. Zaid & Qattan. E/W: 1. Duajj & Drexler; 2. Jaggi & Abeddin; 3. Simon & Mukherjee.

## Anglo-Dutch clash

## Fifa chief rules out special measures

THE HAGUE, Dec 13. (Reuters) Joao Havelange, head of world soccer's ruling body Fifa, yesterday ruled out additional crowd control measures for next June's high-risk World Cup tie between England and the Netherlands in Cagliari.

"We are working on a security system to control fans at all 52 games during the tournament and this same system will apply for the England-Netherlands game," he told reporters.

The clash, scheduled for June 16, brings together two of Europe's most notorious sets of fans and is seen as the most serious flashpoint for hooliganism among the opening group matches in the 24-nation tournament.

At last year's European championship in West Germany, marred by street riots, the clash between the Netherlands and England in Duesseldorf went ahead amid massive security.

Three months ago a Netherlands-England friendly set for Rotterdam this week was called off for security reasons.

Havelange, in the Netherlands for the Dutch Football Association's centenary celebrations, admitted that the decision by Fifa (the International Football Federation) to place England on Sardinia had been influenced by fears about their supporters' behaviour.

English soccer authorities and British Sports Minister Collis Moynihan lobbied for England to be placed at the head of Group F and based on the island to isolate their troublesome fans.

■ Brazil, one of the top contenders, chose the hilly, umbrian resort of Gubbio as training site for next year's soccer competition.

## Nomads lose to Bahrain twice

THIS weekend saw Bahrain Rugby Club visit Kuwait for the league fixture against the Kuwait (KMMC) Nomads. The 1st XV game was a dour struggle which gave little for the spectators to enthuse about.

Kuwait opened the game at a turgid pace and within 5 minutes scored a try through the combined effort of Winfield and Houston driving round the front of a line-out.

The pressure was continued and gave the Nomads two kickable penalties. Unfortunately the normally reliable Adams failed on both attempts and this allowed Bahrain back into the game.

The visitors used the wind well, but it was the indiscipline of the Kuwait forwards that allowed Bahrain to kick 2 penalties and take a 6-4 half time lead.

The 2nd half saw Kuwait entrenched in the Bahrain 22 and a winning score seemed inevitable, but the Nomads failed to find a way through. Hill and Adams came close, but must also take the blame for a wrong choice of options. Bahrain's one attack of the half resulted in yet another converted penalty by Tocher. The final score of 9-4 to Bahrain was achieved through very good defence but Bahrain themselves admitted Houdini would have been proud of this particular escape act.

In the second team game, Bahrain brought only 4 genuine 2nd team players, but an influx of 1st teamers took the total to 15 and a game was played. Kuwait (KMMC) Nomads again started strongly, and a well-won second phase ball saw Mason drive over and score from 20 metres out. Three

excellent kicks by Noel Kelly extended the lead to 12 points. However, Bahrain came back strongly in the 2nd half and managed to get within one point with only 5 minutes to go.

Kuwait's defence looked strong but faltered at the final hurdle in conceding two quick Bahrain scores which left a final score of 19-12 to the visitors. Kuwait's new scrum half Steve Hutchinson Jr had an excellent debut, and the mauling strength of 'Big Mac' McDewett was also much in evidence.

Thus a weekend full of promise ended in two defeats for Kuwait's (KMMC) Nomads. First XV Captain Steve Hill expressed his disappointment, but added that a wounded Kuwait team would not be a pleasant prospect for Dubai Exiles who host both teams this coming weekend.

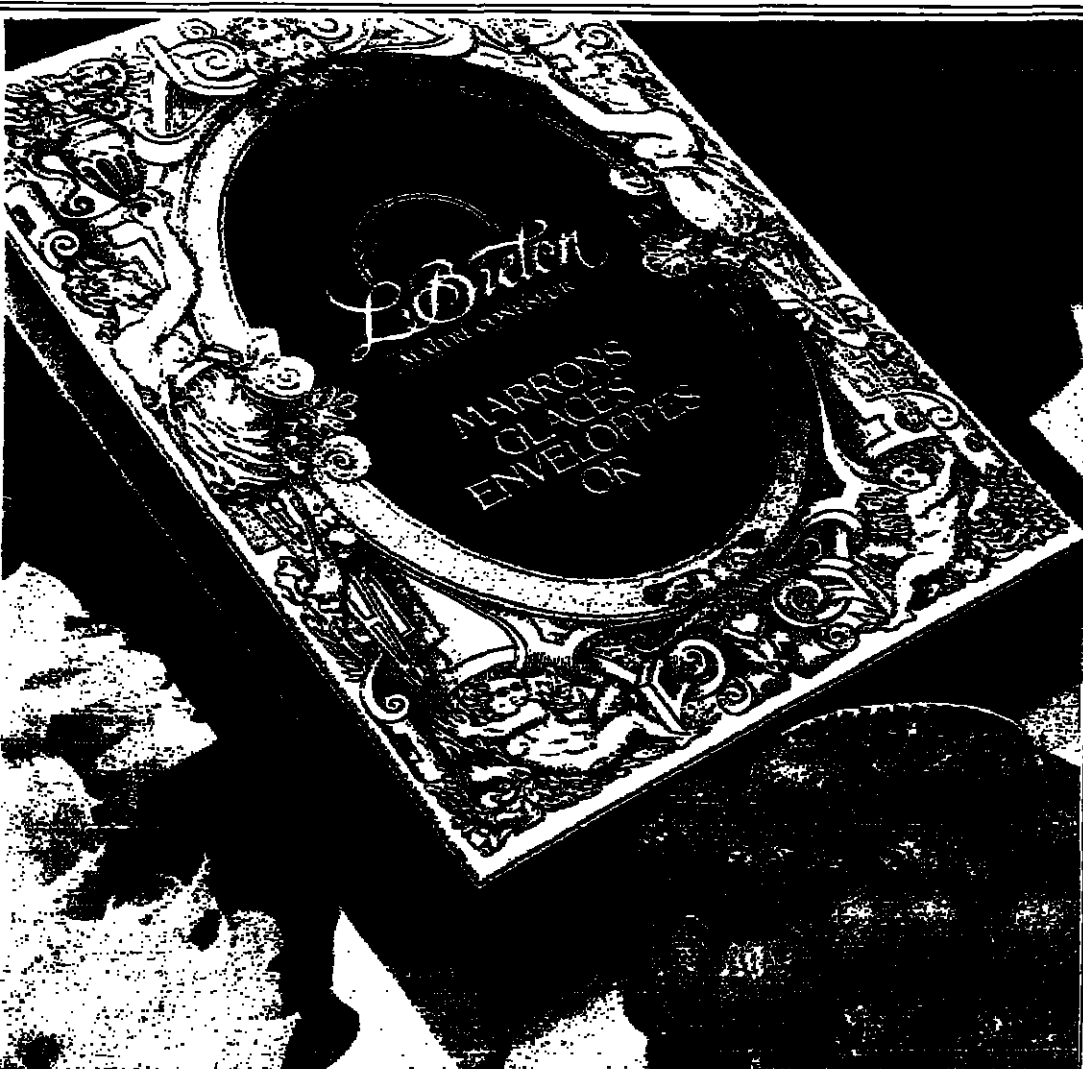


Kuwait win maul ball from Bahrain



Hill wins the ball at the back of the line-out.

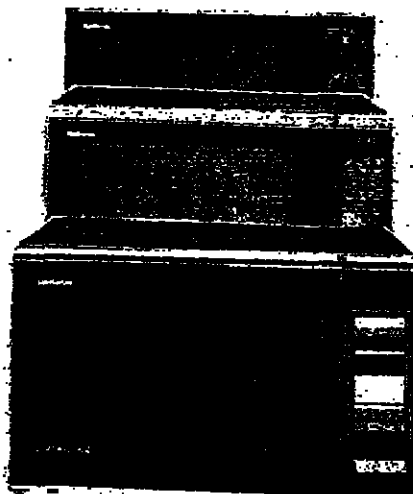
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